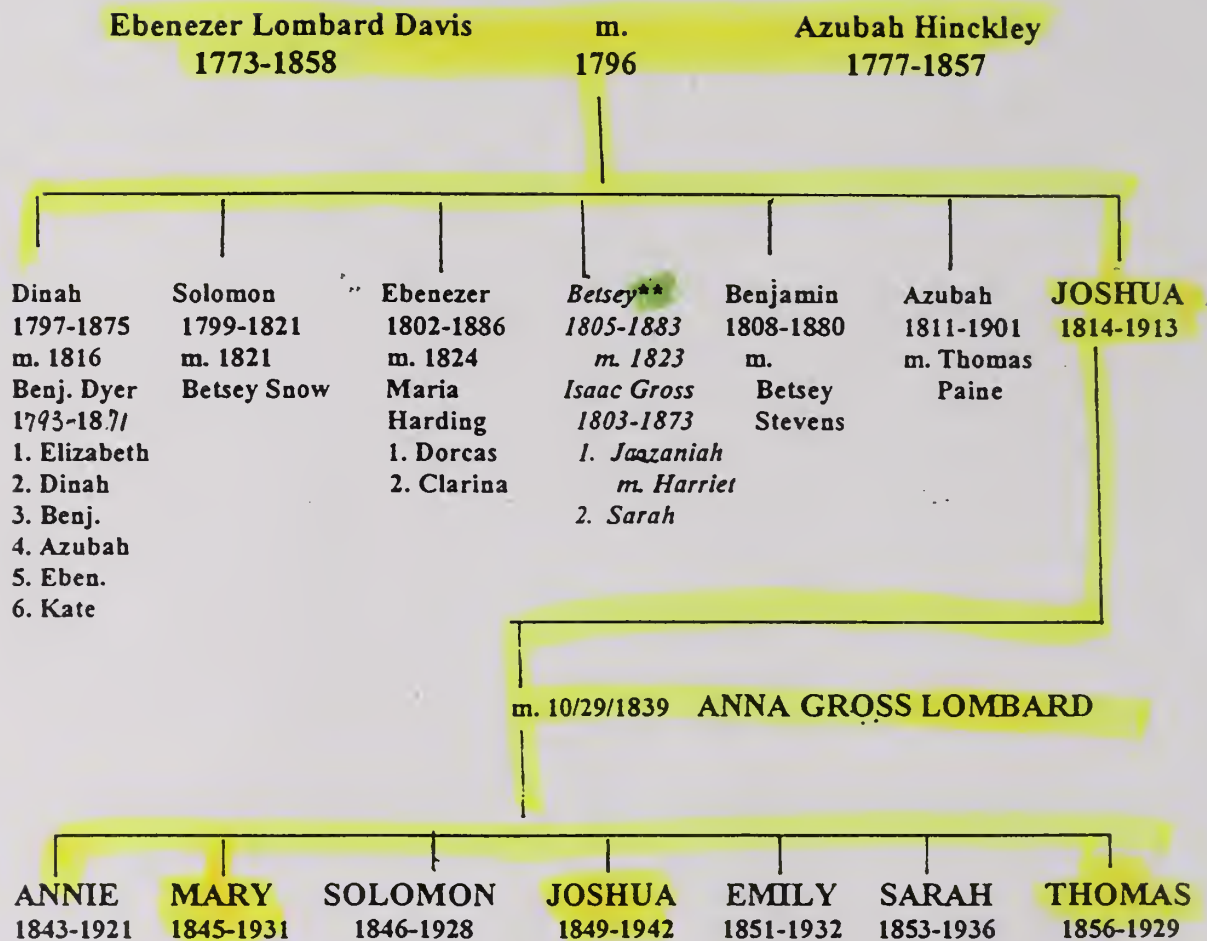


Joan's Attic



DAVIS



** Also see relationship on Lombard side of the family

Dear Family,

I must share a small world story.

In February of 2000, Lowell and I visited our niece Mary Malmo Reme in Bedford, TX. I took along the *My Dear Son* book I'd just finished. Mary said a Bedford friend had read my past efforts and knew the places as "he was from Massachusetts." We met Ralph and Beth Fader and learned he was from *Needham, MA*.

When we got home, my second cousin Nancy Libby of Kennebunk, ME called and suggested I contact her cousin (also my second cousin) Joan Dimond of *Needham, MA*. She wondered whether Joan might have some family papers in her attic I'd be interested in seeing.

Joan and Nancy are the granddaughters of Thomas L. "Tommy" Davis.

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The order of this book is as chronological as possible. Of necessity and for organizational purposes, timelines will jump ahead and behind a little. We will cover over 100 years of our family's history.

Some parts are written alternately in **bold** and normal type. Helen Davis, (my soulmate had we been contemporaries) did a masterful job, 60 or more years ago, editing and linking various sections. I wish I could take credit for her work.

Aunt Annie's birthday party is a 20th century postscript to the 19th century life in these pages. It was too choice to leave for another time.

Speaking of another time, Joan has provided me with plenty of seed for future projects.

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It is interesting to see the ages of these people were while various activities were going on. In the 1860's Anna mentions "jumping into a cart" with Aunt Dinah and others for a ride. Aunt Dinah was in her 70's, and Anna was close to 50 when this "jumping" took place. "Tommy" Davis was a toddler in 1860 and the father of grown sons in 1913.

"Aunt Dinah" and "Cousin Dinah" (mother and daughter) reflect the actual relationship to Joshua and Anna's children. "Aunt Dinah" was Joshua's oldest sister, and "Cousin Dinah" was his niece. I think these terms were used to make the distinction between the two and to clarify things for the children. To date, no picture of "Cousin Dinah" has surfaced, but there are photos of her husband Leonard Lombard (Capt. Dyer's first mate) and their daughter Mary (a frequent Somerville visitor).

The photographs of Truro are anachronistic, but they are close to what 19th century Truro looked like and give the impression of "long ago."

I think each book I've completed is a little better than its predecessor. The most difficult one of all was the first - "The Davises of Truro." I can see a hundred way to improve it, but I wouldn't be where I am today genealogically without the toil expended

in cranking out those earlier books. A "real" genealogist might cringe at how I plunged into our family history, shook it loose, and recorded it.

What you are about to read has everything all good books have - adventure, pathos, romance, humor, poetry, derring-do, history, and possibly one of the greatest love stories never before recorded.

The more I read about Joshua H. Davis, Sr., the more humbled I am to be his descendant. He was an intellect, a patriot, a Christian, a good man. He had a fine sense of humor, a rambunctious household, a profound sense of duty, and a deep and abiding love for his family.

He was foresighted enough to record much of his life with the hope, but not the expectation, we would learn about and from his life.

May his legacy live on.

Susan E. Davis Hanson
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PO Box 187
Spring Valley, WI 54767-0187

715/778-4598

susanhanson@hotmail.com

June, 2000

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June, 2000



Local Events of the 19th Century with Reference to Truro

1800 - Population of the town, 1152

1806 - Cold Friday

1809 - Town 100 years old

1816 - Great Sickness

1826 - M. E. Church built

1827 - Congregational church built

1840 - Old North church taken away

1840 - Truro Academy built

1841 - October gale

1846 - Universalist Church started and
blown down

1849 - Lighthouse built at Pamet Harbor

1850 - Largest population of the century,
2051

1861 - Beginning of Civil War

1867 - Great forest fire

1872 - Reunion of Rich Family

1873 - Railroad extended to
Provincetown

1873 - Best day's work of the Truro
Shoe Co., 133 pairs of shoes
made

1880 - First fish weir in Truro

1883 - Rev. E. W. Noble, D. D., resigned
pastorate of Congregational
Church after 33 years service

1893 - Ship *Jason* lost, 26 men drowned

1898 - Great forest fire

1900 - Population of town, 767

BENJAMIN DYER



**“THE FINEST Kind of
CAPE COD
SEA CAPTAIN”**



Benjamin Dyer
1793 - 1871

The Duties, Regulations and Customs of an American Merchantman

Two Years Before the Mast

by Richard Henry Dana

c. 1840

The captain...is lord paramount. He stands no watch...comes and goes when he pleases, and is accountable to no one, and must be obeyed in everything, without a question, even from his chief officer. He has the power to turn his officers off duty, and even to break them and make them do duty as sailors in the forecastle...he has no companion but his own dignity, and no pleasures but the consciousness of possessing supreme power...and the exercise of it.

The prime minister, the official organ and the active and superintending officer is the **chief mate**. He is the first lieutenant, boatswain, sailing-master and quarter master. The captain tells him what he wishes to have done, and leaves to him the care of overseeing, of allotting the work, and also the responsibility of its being well done...keeps the logbook...has charge of the stowage, safe keeping and delivery of cargo. He is also the wit, for the captain does not condescend to joke with the men and the second mate no one cares for; so...when he entertains...everyone feels bound to laugh.

The **second mate**...is neither officer nor man. The men do not respect him as an officer and he is obliged to go aloft to reef and furl the topsails and to put his hands into the tar and slush with the rest. The crew calls him the "sailor's waiter", as he has to furnish them with spun-yarn, marline and all other stuffs they need and has charge of the boatswain's locker which includes serving boards, marline-spikes, etc. etc. He is expected by the captain to maintain his dignity and enforce obedience and still is kept a great distance from the mate and obliged to work with the crew. He is one to whom little is given and of whom much is required.

Marline-spike (or marlin-spike): A tool (wood or iron) that tapers to a point and is used to separate strands of rope or wiring (as in splicing)

Supercargo: An officer on a merchant ship in charge of the commercial concerns of the voyage.

"One will hardly ask, 'What can a sailor find to do at sea?'"

"A ship is like a lady's watch, always out of repair."

R. H. D.

Capt. Benjamin Dyer, brother-in-law of Joshua H. Davis, was the finest type of Cape Cod Sea Captain of the early 19th century. Born in 1793, he began his sea-faring life at the age of nine years.

His grandson, Harold E. Boardman of Medford, Mass., wrote of him and of his exploits in the WAR OF 1812:

"In 1812 he was 19 years old. Commerce failed and he became a member of the crew of the privateer POLLY. (There seem to have been a number of privateers of this name.)

One day a sailor aloft handling sail lost his footing on the foot rope, plunged over the yard but caught the foot rope on the other side with his hands and so hung there; Grandfather who was a powerful man saw him, hustled aloft, out on the same foot rope and reaching over the yard held the man until the crew could send up a line by which to lower him to the deck.

For this exploit when the POLLY took a prize a few days later, Grandfather was made prize-master to take her into Salem.

This British ship SARAH was sailing under Portuguese colors and when boarded and papers demanded, said she had none, but they were found behind a secret panel in the cabin. This capture took place some 200 miles S. E. of Georges Banks; this British merchantman was a slow old tub and when chased by a British frigate lost distance rapidly; Grandfather who of course knew the Banks thoroughly, put

his prize over a portion so shoal that every sea left bucketsful of sand on deck and so escaped, as the Britisher gave up the chase upon finding what he was getting into.

Great excitement in Salem upon his arrival. A few days later the POLLY was in turn captured by a British frigate, quite likely the same one, and I believe was taken to Halifax.

Harold Boardman has in his possession a number of letters written by Capt. Dyer to his wife Dinah covering the years from 1817 to 1859, also the Log of the ship ELI WHITNEY for the period from April 14, 1846 to September 10, 1847.

These sources reveal the hazards and hardships of a mariner's life of that period and give occasional glimpses of contemporary life ashore. It was necessary for a Sea Captain to be not only a skilled navigator but master of men as well and often a man of business when it devolved upon him to purchase and dispose of his cargo to the advantage of the owners.

Many of Capt. Dyer's voyages were between southern and English ports with cargoes of cotton.

His log and letters mention the ports of New York, Boston, Savannah, New Orleans, Campeche, Liverpool, ~~Flushing~~ Rotterdam, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, Gibraltar and others.

On several voyages in the '40's he brought German emigrants to New York or New Orleans, 213 on one occasion with a "ship's company" of 17. During the War with Mexico in the Spring of 1847, his ship ELI WHITNEY was chartered by the United States Government to transport forage, horses and dragoons. He was off Vera Cruz when it was bombarded and entered the city only a day or two after its surrender.

Some extracts from the letters and log are of interest.

7/12/18 BOSTON

"We shall sail Tuesday next for Gibraltar and direct back to Boston. If nothing befalls, shall be home the 1st of December." *But*

12/28/18 BOSTON

"Arrived after a long voyage of 77 days. Never since I have been to sea did I suffer half so much. We have been on short allowance 40 days and nothing but a succession of westerly gales. We have been on soundings about 20 days during which time the frost has been very severe."

In 1822 he writes of the yellow fever epidemic in New York.

9/13/22 BROOKLYN

"The fever does yet abate in New York. All the west part of the city is deserted and a watch appointed to prevent any person entering what is termed the infected district."

10/2/22 BROOKLYN

"Upon a moderate calculation not less than 90 thousand persons have been obliged to quit their dwellings and seek shelter wherever they could obtain it."

3/22/24 SAVANNAH

"A number of boats are passing by to see a duel which is to be fought on the north side of the river and as I am in the neighborhood believe I shall be a spectator.....Well, Dinah, have been absent about 2 hours and must be brief or shall not be in time for the mail.

"They fought 8 paces distance and both fired together and one was badly wounded in the arm. If the ball had missed his arm death must have been inevitable. I had always a detestable idea of duelling but much more so now.

"For 2 men to stand and level pistols at each others' breast and send a human being unbidden into the presence of God is painful.....but alas these things are common here this being the second recontre of this kind in less than ten days.

"The horrid affair I have just witnessed grew out of so contemptible a thing as the election of a petty officer of the militia. I believe I shall never walk far to see 2 men shoot at each other again."



Dinah Davis Dyer
1797 - 1875

4/12/25 BOSTON

"We shall sail for Campeachey in the Gulf of Mexico the day after tomorrow. You will I fear conjure up pirates yellow fever etc. in your imagination but as to the former I have not the least apprehension of danger for I have heard of none lately in that quarter.

"Besides the ship is well armed and as to the latter we lay a long way from the land and I have always heard it to be a very healthy place. I have never been placed in so responsible a situation before. I have a full cargo of logwood indigo etc. to purchase there and no supercargo or consignee.

"We shall proceed from Campeachey to Copenhagen in Denmark and from there to St. Petersburg in Russia thence to Boston or New York about 5 or 7 months voyage."

5.30/24 SAVANNAH

"Night before last I witnessed one of the most interesting times you can possibly conceive of. I was desired to set a gentleman on board a ship bound to New York and as it was expected I should have to be absent during the night as I should go about 17 miles from the city.

"Mr. Parkman gave me a letter of introduction to a lady (no jealousy Dinah). I say a lady on the so. Carolina side. I landed and called to the house which was very large and splendidly furnished.

"They were sitting down to tea. A lady about 28 or 30 asked me take a seat at the table at which she presided. She implored a blessing and we sat down. I directly concluded she was an extraordinary character or I was no physiognomist.

"During tea I observed two missionary boxes on the mantel piece. We arose from the table. She dismissed it. I handed her my letter. She gave me a very cordial welcome.

"In about an hour afterward she observed she must go and catechise the children. I saw only two but observed I should like to hear her if it would be no intrusion. I went to what she termed the chapel accompanied with two or three other ladies but which was a room in the same but what was my astonishment at seeing about 25 little male and female slaves rise and run to share her friendly hand.

"They all appeared to be between the age of 4 and 12 years. The little negroes all formed a circle around her, her own two children at the head. She then questioned them and instructed them in the doctrine and antics of religion for about an hour sung a hymn prayed with and dismissed them but Dinah I cannot describe my feelings on hearing so many infant voices joining with hers in praising their creator.

"To see their little black eyes raised and moist with gratitude to God and their benefactress produced feelings in me not easy to be described. After the little ones had retired the older ones came.

"She read some portion of Scripture prayed sung and then an old negro whose wool was white as snow dismissed the assembly. They all parted with the greatest marks of friendship and esteem. She told me she enjoyed herself nowhere better than when conversing with and instructing her negroes on religious subjects and said no doubt the souls of her slaves would be required at her hands if she did not afford them the means of Grace.

"She is a widow and immensely rich. I find she is a member of the Presbyterian Church at this place and if she is not one of those whose names are written in heaven I am no judge of piety.

"I remained about 4 hours with this interesting woman and took my leave. You must excuse me my dear if I have dwelt too long on the praises of a woman of whose character I am sure you would be pleased with but she is not Dinah.

"With all her riches accomplishments and piety. Nor would I exchange my dear wife for her and all the riches of the Indies into the bargain."

2/19/29 SAVANNAH

"This morning about 2 oclock I was alarmed by the cry of fire I sprang from my berth on deck and found the city on fire and a coal had blown from at least half a mile distance and set fire to the main topsail of the ROME.

"Every exertion to extinguish it proved fruitless. The mainmast topmast

and everything attached to them is burned but the hull foremast and all the sails and rigging forward uninjured.

"I was about one hour with nothing on but my shirt and drawers. My face hands and hair are a little burned but not so much as to lay me up. We shall be detained to refit about 10 days or a fortnight. This accident will fall upon the underwriters."

The entries in the LOG are mainly devoted to the latitude, longitude, direction of the wind and the weather. Occasional comments are interspersed now and then.

6/9/46 Past the Caskets approaching Cape La Hague

"The lands looks beautifully appears in a high state of cultivation the green fields afford a relief to one who has had nothing but sea and skies to look upon for a month.

"More than 20 sail in company bound to the eastd probably every one to Havre. How different the present peaceful and quiet evening must be to what it was forty years ago now the inhabitants of this and neighboring countries are employed in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture manufacturing and commerce. Then all around was war and strife.

"The Peasant instead of peacefully cultivating the earth with his happy wife and children around him and none to molest or make him afraid was the conscript marching to perhaps manure the fields of Austerlitz or

Marengo with his own body and mingle his dust with the fallen of other nations.....how often have I thought with Cowper "that were their subjects wise war is a game that Kings would not play at."

3/30/47 OFF VERA CRUZ

"Landed and walked up to the city entered it before seven oclock found all the streets barricaded with large red cedar posts set deep in the ground at each end of all streets and so near together a man could scarcely squeeze betwixt them and all that part of the city on the side of the American trenches very much knocked to pieces some buildings entirely down some had been indeed been in 'awful activity' what few Mexicans were to be seen looked on me with a sort of staring wonder you have no business here sort of look in the afternoon more doors were open and people stirring but I fancied that almost all of them looked sort of sad which was not surprising as probably but few what had some relative killed during the bombardment streets in a very filthy state but in the afternoon commenced clearing them"

Letter of 7/13/48 SAVANNAH

"I notice by Azubah's letter that Joshua has a very large school this summer and I am pleased to hear it. Tell him I heard a remark made at a dinner table in Liverpool that the children in Truro are better educated than in any other town in the county and as he has been pretty active in the cause of education I consider him fairly entitled to a share in the compliment. The observation was made by a shipmaster

from Brewster and if the children did but consider that industry and idleness in their studies were a subject of remark in Europe I think they would aim at greater exertion and better improvement."

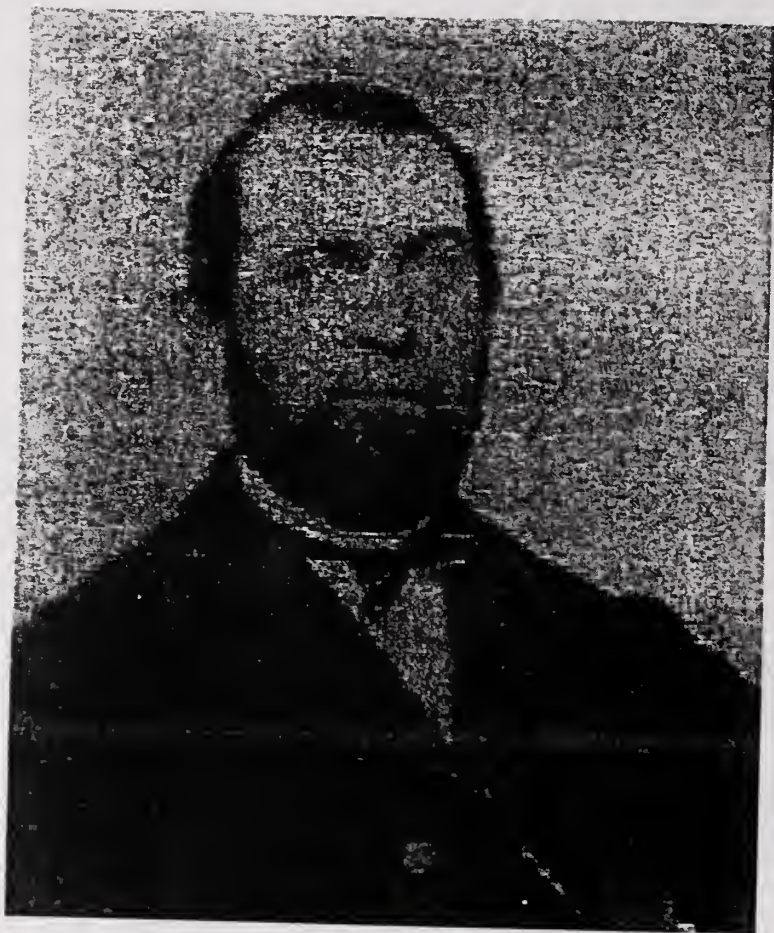
Perhaps the most dramatic incident of Capt. Dyer's career occurred in the winter of 1850-51 when his vessel was struck by lighting.

Harold E. Boardman gives the following account chiefly from the recollection of his mother's and his Uncle Eben's stories of the event:

"The Ship was the JOHN BYRANT; its first mate was his prospective son-in-law Leonard Lombard and second mate his own son Benjamin Dyer, Jr. The former soon became a ship-master in his own right; the latter went into the Navy as an officer in the Civil War and remained in after the war's end. He was in command of the U. S. S. FREDONIA when she foundered with all hands in the harbor of Arica, Peru, by a tidal wave following a severe earthquake, in 1868, I believe.

"After the ship was struck he sent the 2nd mate below to investigate possible damage. Soon the cook reported the mate laid out 'in a fit' whereupon he sent his 1st Mate on the same errand; the latter also succumbed and Grandfather then realized that his cargo of cotton was afire and generating carbon monoxide which nowadays gets such frequent victims in closed garages.

"He immediately battened down all hatches as air tight as possible and ran for port (9 days) where the ship was scuttled to extinguish the fire.



Leonard Lombard
1st Mate



Benjamin Dyer, Jr.
2nd Mate

"Some of the deck planks were charred to a thickness of barely 1/4 inch so it could have been only a short time before the fire broke through. I have always understood the port to be Queenstown which would have been the nearest possible for his voyage from Savannah to Liverpool.

"At one time during the period he was picked up and towed by a steamship but the wind freshening he could sail faster and therefore cast off."

Some of the cargo as well as the ship itself was evidently saved.

1/31/51 LIVERPOOL
Letter written to his daughter Dinah at Truro

"We are now repairing the ship and suppose it will take at least a month longer and then some time to load..... The weather has been very bad here and out to sea and many vessels have returned in distress.

"You will have seen by my former letters that we have had a very narrow escape for our lives. It seems to me the greatest interposition of Providence almost that I ever heard of.

"Imagine if you can my situation with a cargo of cotton afire under my feet 6 or 700 miles from land with both mates laid out on the gratings forward of the cabin, side by side, apparently dead from the effects of carbonic acid gas and a perfect hurricane raging around us; it seemed as great a manifestation of almighty power to save us as to destroy

us at first with a thunderbolt but I think the mercies and goodness of God are the greatest of his attributes.

"I have much care and many difficulties to contend with but get along with them very well; I have made up my mind to let nothing worry me.

"I will just mention an observation that was made before a meeting of the consignees and underwriters here.

"I sent from Dublin to an old acquaintance here in Liverpool a very rich and influential man to come over for the purpose of holding a survey to see if the ship was fit to be removed to Liverpool; when he returned he says to the meeting, as I was informed 'Gentlemen if yon chap over in Ireland hadn't the heart of a lion and nerves of iron, the ship cargo and all hands would have been burned up and never reached port'but enough of this' or you will think Daddy is getting foolish."

In 1859 or 1860 Capt. Dyer retired to his "farm" in Truro where he spent the remainder of his life.

Notes

Joshua Hinckley Davis was almost 23 years old and a student at Andover Academy when he wrote this letter.

“Brother” Benjamin Dyer, about 40 years of age, was Joshua’s brother-in-law. He was married to Joshua’s oldest sister Dinah, also about 40 years old. In his *Book of Family History*, Joshua stated that Dinah, being so much older, was more like a mother to him than a sister. Brother-in-law Benjamin Dyer “keenly felt the lack of education in his life and endeavored to provide good educations for his children.”

Benjamin also bankrolled Joshua’s education, and Joshua always appreciated this. According to one of a very few snippets of Davis family history my mother knew, Joshua owed his time to his father Ebenezer until he was 21. Only after that time could he pursue the education he longed for. According to this letter, education was not highly esteemed in Truro, so Ebenezer was not being intentionally cruel - only following what was normal for that time and place.

Elizabeth was Benjamin’s oldest child (Joshua’s oldest niece), and he held true to educating his children, even “females.” I find it remarkable that Elizabeth was studying chemistry in 1837. She was born in 1820, so she would have been 17 at the time of this letter.

Elizabeth married George Blake in (or of) Boston when she was about 20, so this answers the question where she may have met him. George Blake was a mariner, and he died in Buenos Aires within a few years of their marriage leaving Elizabeth with a small daughter Isabel (also called Isabella in some records). When Elizabeth and Isabel returned to Truro, they lived with her parents.’

Boarding with the Dyers at that time was the new Congregational minister Edward Noble. Edward married Elizabeth and they had six children. Elizabeth was about 30 or 31, and Edward was 37 when they married.

The boy named Jaazaniah was Jaazaniah Gross (the 5th), son of Joshua’s sister Betsey and her husband Isaac Gross. Jaazaniah was about 13 in 1837. Joshua was close to this brother-in-law and called him “brother”, too. Isaac would become a “double relative” soon. In 1839 Joshua married Anna Lombard Gross, a niece of Isaac’s. His brother-in-law would also be his uncle by marriage.

So, while Joshua was attaining his education, his niece and nephew (cousins to each other) were doing the same thing.

S.E.H.

Capt. Benjamin Dyer
Care of Bolton Ogden Company
Liverpool
Eng.

Via N. York

Andover June 25, 1837

Dear Brother,

I should have written to you while you was at Savannah, but I delayed hoping that I should first receive one from you, but Elizabeth's second letter informed me that you were soon to leave that place for Liverpool at which place you wished to have me write you.

I will therefore comply with your request, But as I have nothing of importance to communicate I cannot promise you a very interesting letter, but if you can receive it, it will be far fetched, and I always find that letters increase in interest in a ratio of the square of the distance, now if this principle will hold true, this may be worth a reading by the time it has crossed the Atlantic.

Elizabeth stated that you wished to have me write respecting her improvements and all about how she is getting along, as to that I will give you all the information which I have been enabled to gain respecting it.

The school is a very good one and is the present season in very successful operation. They have a very learned man for Principal, and a very good and experienced female teacher. The Academy is a fine building situated in an airy and delightful place. It is furnished with a philosophical apparatus and other things calculated to render the prosecution of their studies interesting and profitable.

Elizabeth is studying Chemistry and has been attending a course of lectures on that subject in the laboratory connected with our Institution.

As to her boarding place it is the best there is in Andover, and is just such a boarding place a girl of her age should have.

Mrs. Wisner is one of the best of women, and appears to be solicitous for the best good of those with whom she is intrusted. She only has a few boarders, and those are young ladies which she takes on no other terms than that they shall be under her control completely. Now this I think is as it should be. I rank Elizabeth's boarding place as the thing of greatest importance to her. Mrs. Wisner has things in style.

She (*Elizabeth*) has no company but such as are among the first class which furnishes her most certainly with an excellent opportunity to improve her memory which I consider a very essential part of a ~~females~~ education in particular, finally she has every facility afforded her possible of assisting her to spend her time to the best advantage.

She is now at a suitable age to appreciate these privileges, and I think she does and as far as I can judge I think she is making great improvement.

It is a pity that a good many more of our Truro girls and boys too could not have the same advantages. It would soon give a different shade to things there. There is manifestly a great want of interest there on the subject of education, They need waking up on the subject. They make that of a secondary nature which is of the greatest importance.

Our minds were made for too noble a purpose to be dormant in an uncultivated state. The pleasure resulting from their acquisition of knowledge is incalculable.

Although I am as yet but a Tyro, and my ascension up the hill of Science is as yet very small and gained with much trouble still the pleasure which I have derived (setting aside the advantages) much more than balances it, and if a few step presents such beauties; what must be the pleasure of those who have arisen to so great a height.

I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted health ever since I commenced going to school, but owing to my sedentary habits I am under the necessity of paying strict attention to diet and exercise.

I was at home last winter, and taught school in Uncle Nailer's district. I think I should like that business very much provided I could have a good school, but I must say that was a terrible thing to keep, for they put me into that little old schoolhouse with about seventy scholars of every age from four years old to twenty. The greater part of them had different books, so there were about as many different books and different capacities for learning them as there were scholars.

This was about what I had to systemise upon, and this is about a fair specimen of our schools there in general.

Now I say it is impossible for one individual. I care not how good he is or how much experience he has had to keep a good school and do every scholar justice, under such circumstances, but it is generally the case that any failure of a good school as it is termed is attributed to a defect in the teacher.

I anticipated a good deal of trouble as it had been so common a thing among them, but I was very agreeably disappointed, for I succeeded in getting through without any difficulty, but I was obliged to put on all the lion I possessed, and used to think it would be an advantage to me to beckon the power of putting on one of those marlenspike grins to which I heard you refer, but I got through, and they told me that I kept a good school but know better.

It is true I did the best I could, but I know it was impossible for me or any one else to keep a good school with seventy scholars when forty are as many as one can teach to advantage. So much as the result of my experience as a pedagogue.

I have Jaazaniah out here to school this summer with me, and he is doing very well indeed, for we have one of the best of teachers in that department. Then will be a vacation in our school soon of three or four weeks at which time I expect to go home.

The vacation in the Female Seminary will be at the same time but of only one week duration for which reason Elisabeth will not go home.

I spoke to Dinah when I was at home about writing to you to get me cloth for a coat but as she may have forgotten to write I will. If it is convenient I should like for you to get me some. You will know about what quality I shall want (color black). I should like enough for a coat and vest.

Please excuse the errors for I am in somewhat of a hurry as you will observe.

Yours &c.

J. H. Davis

George W. Blake

**"THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN
MERCHANT—A Memoir of George
W. Blake**

**Complied chiefly from his journals
and Letters by his Sister.**

American Tract Society, Boston, 1860

This book while written primarily with a religious and didactic purpose, tells of a life not only of piety and Christian service but of adventure, travel and business enterprise.

Born in Westboro, Mass. in 1808, George Blake at seventeen entered the counting room of his maternal uncle J. Whitney of Boston, who was an importer and wholesale merchant "engaged chiefly in the coasting trade between Savannah and Boston but making frequent shipments also to Buenos Ayres and other south American as well as European ports." (Another maternal uncle was Eli Whitney the inventor of the cotton gin.) In commercial enterprises for his uncle and often for himself, he went on many voyages, often long and hazardous, to Rio de Janeiro, the West Indies, Savannah, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hayti, San Domingo.

Before his marriage to Elizabeth Dyer in June 1840, he had made two voyages to Buenos Ayres and been in business in that city at two different periods aggregating more than three years.

On July 11th the newly married couple sailed from Boston for Buenos Ayres and arrived at Monte Video after a passage of 72 days. Here they were met by friends with whom they lodged while awaiting the raising of the blockade of Buenos Ayres by the French fleet which had already lasted more than two years. When in a few weeks this event took place, Mr. Blake preceded his wife to Buenos Ayres to find living quarters and to attend to business.

The next June (1841) he reports having formed a partnership to do a wholesale business in drugs and dyes. He states also that the drafts upon his time for benevolent purposes are large. "I am at present one of the movers in establishing a Union Academy here for giving a pretty thorough English education, also teaching the Latin, Greek, and other languages--It is designed more particularly for the children of foreigners but with a view ultimately to extend its advantages to the native population, and to give them some idea of Protestantism. The Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary Society will have the management of the religious part of it."

In a letter published in the *BOSTON RECORDER* he gives an account of the forming of "The Society for the Promotion of Christian Worship", made up of various denominations and maintaining a chapel, pastor, and Sabbath School.

In a letter to his sister he describes the "Moorish house" in which they live, its "flat roof, balconies, corridors, patios"...and "the walk upon the roof from which they have a fine view of river, bay and shipping", also the flowers and trees in the patio, roses, cactus, passion flower, orange tree, &c.

In another letter he describes in vivid detail a cattle ranch in the country where he and his wife visited. On this ranch there were "twelve to fifteen thousand sheep, two thousand ^{ad} of neat cattle, thirty to forty horses, a dozen hogs, fifty to sixty geese, four or five domesticated ostriches, and hens and chickens ad infinitum.

"There is something grand in the sight of the flocks and herds which browse over the plains; something agreeable in mounting a spirited horse and galloping around for leagues, without finding fences or obstructions; chasing the wild deer and ostrich, and returning to feed from your own hand the same classes of wild animals domesticated, and walking about in peace among your dogs and fowls."



Elizabeth Dyer

On August 30, 1842, their daughter Isabel was born.

On January 5, 1844, Mr. Blake died suddenly after only a few days of illness from "bilious colic." Three months later another child was born but only lived a few days.

Just when and how Elizabeth returned to Truro I do not know, but, as Isabel once told me, it was NOT with her father, as Grandfather reports, since his vessel was in port at Buenos Ayres and left before the expected child was born.

H. H. D.

Elizabeth Dyer Blake was the oldest child of Capt. Benjamin and Dinah Davis Dyer. Elizabeth's second husband was Rev. Edward W. Noble.

Elizabeth and her daughter Isabel returned to Truro from Argentina and lived with her parents. The 1850 census of Truro shows the young Congregational minister also boarding with the family. Elizabeth and Rev. Edward W. Noble eventually married and had six children. One of these children was named George Blake Noble.



EBENEZER LOMBARD DAVIS

BORN: AUGUST 3, 1773
DIED: NOVEMBER 19, 1858

TRURO, MASSACHUSETTS

"THE PHOTOGRAPH IS TAKEN FROM A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL PORTRAIT; PAINTED, PROBABLY IN HOLLAND, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 30 YEARS OF AGE."

"Copy"

Bahia 8th August 1815

Messrs Mello, Branford Co

Gentlemen

I beg leave to trouble you with the enclosed note of Wm. Nevilles for collection upon which there is a balance due of 183.040-----

As this man is, I know been doing well and is paying off some of his old Debts I hope you will not be obliged to use coercive measures to obtain payment from him, and had rather you should make him a handsome discount than to be at the expense of the Law unless you are sure by that of compelling him to pay,-----

Should you be able to collect it, you will have the goodness to remit the Amount in the most advantageous manner to Captain Eben L. Davis of Truro, Massachusetts in any good vessel bound to the United States-----

It would be very agreeable if an arrangement could be made with Mr. Farrow to pay this note, it is negotiable, and if could sell it to him, he could pay it to Neville instead of Cash & it would be an act of justice to Capt. Davis, who was imposed upon by the daily false promises of the man to pay him Cash for articles bought of him & constantly put him off when at last he was compelled to accept this note upon Interest-----

I was knowing to the transaction, and my name is witnessed on the note and if it is necessary can take my oath as to the justness of the debt,-----

Captain Davis is a poor man and has a large family dependent upon him for support & can ill afford to loose the sum & I sincerely hope you will be able to do something for him in this business-----very respectfully

I am Gentlemen

Your most Obt Servant

Geo. Foster

Mr. Nevilles note 3rd July 1813 upon Interest Daly	<u>266.83</u>
is N Rd	213.480
Recd --- Indorsement	<u>30.440</u>
Baln due	183.040

with interest from 3d July

A true Copy of the original order given Messrs Mello, Branford
Co Bahia St Salvador

Attest Geo. Foster

Boston Decr 11, 1815

Copy Letter to

Messrs Mello, Branford Co
Bahia or St Salvador
respecting Wm Nevilles not
left with them for collection .

This was a two-page document folded in such a way that the address could be written on the back, sealed with wax and mailed .

Bahia is a port in northeastern Brazil and also a state in east Brazil in the Salvador area.

"Copy"
Pahia 8th August 1815

Messrs Mello, Bransford & Co

Gentlemen

I have to trouble you with
the enclosed note of ~~the~~ ^{the} materials for collection upon which there
is a bill of exchange due of \$183,040 — As this man is, I have been
doing, well and is paying off some of his old debts I hope
you will not be obliged to use coercive measures to obtain
payment from him, and had rather you should make him
a handsome discount than to be at the expense of the law,
unless you are sure that if compelling him to pay, —
should you be able to collect it, you will have the good-
ness to remit the amount in the most advantageous manner
to Captain Eben: L. Davis of Freetown, Massachusetts in any
good vessel bound to the United States — It would be
very agreeable if an arrangement could be made with Mr.
Parson to pay this note, it is negotiable, and if you could sell
it to him, he could pay it to Mr. Mello instead of cash, it
would be an act of justice to Capt. Davis, who was in power
upon the daily false promises of the man to pay him cash
for articles bought of him & constantly kept him off when
at last he was compelled to accept this note upon
interest. — I was knowing to the transaction, and my name
is written on the note and if it is necessary, can take

Take my oath as is the justice of the debt, — Capt. Davis
is a poor man and has a large family, dependant upon
him for support & can ill afford to loose the sum & I
sincerely hope you will be able to do something for
him in this business — very respectfully

I am Gentlemen

Wm. Most Obedt Servt

Jno. Foster

Wm. Davis note 3^d July 1813 upon Interest only 266.183

is 21.183 — 213,480

Rec^d Andorsement

30,440

213,480

Ball. due

with interest from 3^d July —

A true Copy of the original orders given Messrs

Mell, Branford C. Parker, St. Salvador

Attest Jno. Foster

Boston Dec 2 1815

Copy Letter to
Messrs Wells, Branford &
Bahia, or St. Salvador
respecting Anne Sewall's note
left with them for collection

There has been a tradition in the family that Capt. Ebenezer Davis was at one time confined in Dartmoor prison.

If his capture was in the latter part of the 18th century, as his son Joshua records, he must have been taken to some other prison, as, according to Shebnah Rich in his book on "Truro, Landmarks and Seamarks", Dartmoor was not built until 1809.

Many Truro men were imprisoned there during the "War of the Embargo."

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Boardman of Medford, Mass. have in their possession two silver spoons (dessert size) which have been handed down from Harold Boardman's Grandmother, Mrs. Benjamin Dyer (Dinah Davis, oldest daughter of Capt. Ebenezer Davis) with this story:

During Ebenezer's imprisonment in England, he succeeded in concealing about his person some Mexican silver money, which he had molded into spoons on his release. These spoons he later gave to his oldest daughter, presumably upon her marriage.

A family anecdote often related in connections with the spoons is that several old "salts" who had suffered at the hands of the British used to foregather at Capt. Davis's and relate their experiences.

One of them usually closed his remarks by saying with emphasis:

"Waal, I never did like them thar English."

*Excerpt from letter from Joshua H.
Davis, Jr. to Helen Davis*

Spring Valley, WI
January 19, 1939

Dear Helen,

...I think the story of the spoons is nothing but a myth. Grandfather wasn't so short of spoons that he needed to go to all that trouble just for two spoons.

Grandmother Davis died about a year and a half before Grandfather, and he made his home with Aunt Dinah.

Cousin Eben [Dyer] was named after Grandfather Davis and that is probably why Grandmother's silver was left to him perhaps after two of the spoons had been given one each to two of the sisters.

Before he lived in Newton he [Eben] lived in Watertown nearby. He kept a store there, and occupied the rooms above the store as a dwelling for his family.

While there the building burned down and the merchandise and household goods were a total loss.

I remember distinctly hearing someone at our home (I think my mother) say that Grandmother Davis' silver was destroyed when Eben was burned out.

The only thing about Dartmoor I could find in Shebnah's book was that be believed in time some town on the Cape would have as rapid a growth of

summer residents as did Dartmoor twenty-five years ago.

I always had an attachment for Truro and if I should go there now the most interesting place in town would be the church yard, and that would be a sad satisfaction.



EBENEZER LOMBARD DAVIS
AUGUST 3, 1773 - NOVEMBER 9, 1858
(DIED AT AGE 85)

AZUBAH HINCKLEY DAVIS
JANUARY 5, 1777 - JULY 15, 1857
(DIED AT AGE 80)

The winter of 1833-34, I spent in the family of my uncle Benjamin Davis in Readfield, Maine, and attended school at Kent's Hill Seminary. What I learned and saw during my connection with that Seminary, served to increase my desire for a more liberal education.

Joshua H. Davis
Book of Family History

KENTS HILL SCHOOL



The original school (now called the 1821 House) is pictured on the left. In 1824 the 3 story structure was added for use as classrooms, dormitory, chapel & kitchen, and called "the Mansion". The 1821 house remains today, and is occupied by faculty.

Kents Hill School was founded by Revolutionary War veteran Luther Sampson (also see Churches / Methodist). The government awarded those who had been in military service with grants of land, and Mr. Sampson set out on horseback from Marshfield Massachusetts to locate his lot. Unsure of what direction he should take, Mr. Sampson gave his horse the lead and they found their way atop beautiful Kents Hill in Readfield. In Luther Sampson's own words "In 1800 I got the body of my house up, the roof shingled, brought doors and windows from the old house, and moved into it so I could put corn in the old house...In a few years I gave up the west room for the circuit preacher's family...." In 1821 he built a house across from his own for the use of the preacher in residence. The same year he also "got a body incorporated by the name of Readfield Religious and Charitable Society, since, changed to the name Maine Wesleyan Seminary." He believed that the land bestowed upon him was from God and placed in his care, so felt moved to share his good fortune. He also felt there was a need for good training for men called to the ministry so founded The Readfield Religious and Charitable Society, but his efforts faltered for lack of a qualified principal. He was fortunate to find Elihu Robinson who ran an academically successful, but financially poor school in Augusta. They joined forces and founded Maine Wesleyan Seminary in 1824. Luther Sampson contributed over \$13,000.00 toward establishing the Seminary (now Kents Hill School). He also deeded 140 acres, a furnished house, two barns, sheds, outbuildings, 50 acres of pastureland with sheep and cattle. The school was now academically and financially sound. Mr. Robinson and his family took residence in the "1821 house" which still stands today and is used as faculty housing. On February 27, 1824 fourteen young people from the nearby community were the first students.

The declaration of purpose in the newly named school was "instruction to youth in the principles of experimental Christian religion, theology, literature and a practical knowledge of agriculture and mechanical arts". This is the first known attempt at providing courses in manual training in the country. In the summer of 1824 an old house on the property was made into a classroom, and a barn was remodeled into a shop for manual training and carpentry. A three story building was constructed to house classrooms, chapel, dormitory and kitchen. The numbers grew, and the Kents Hill story began. !

Kents Hill is a successful co-ed college preparatory school today. A diverse enrollment of 150-200 includes students from all across the USA and the world in addition to Maine.

Truro Mass
Nov 10 Dec
Am

1831/4

Joshua H Davis

Readfield Corner
Me

Tues December 11 1833

Dear son i improve a few moments thinking by this
time you feel anxious to hear from home to know how
we are doing we are all enjoying good health at
present and hope these lines will find you the same
we was very glad to hear you arrived safe for we felt
very uneasy about you thinking you must have had
bad time, and more so fearing you was not prepared to
~~the~~ dye but i hope you will not put off the day of
repentance till the day of grace is over and so that day
be upon you unawares for i feel it is of the greatest
importance that we are prepared to dye there has been
~~many~~ of our neighbours called to try the reality of ~~sterility~~
since you left home and some in a very sudden and awful
manner mr dyer dyed the same day you left home mrs
thomas is dead mr reuben paine david c cook was
drowned the next day after you left and the next monday
there was three drowned to the south part of the town
mr william riches son mathannal and limen baker
and mr henry riches son two of them was piked up and
buried. now i must talk a little about our family you
father expects to go to bottom by christmas to spend the
winter benjamin was married last week he is going to
live here to take care of the ~~estate~~ cattle betsy
lin. clay is going to be married this week and there is
great many marriages which i have not room to men-
tion we all send our love to you and your uncles family
tell mary and fdrina that we want very much to see
them you must write again soon and write all the
particulars we want you to make all the improvements
you can this winter so i must conclude wishing you
all well i remain your affectionate mother

Leubah Davis

truro december 11 1833

Dear Son

i improve a few moments
thinking by this time you feel anxious to
hear from home to know how we are
adoing

we are all injoying good health at
present and hope these lines will find
you the same

we was very glad to hear you
arrived safe for we felt very uneasy
about you thinking you must have had
bad time, and more so fearing you was
not prepared to dye

but i hope you will not put off the
day of repentance till the day of grace is
over and so that day be upon you
unaware for i feel it is of the greatest
importance that we are prepared to dye

there has been many of our
neighbors called to try the reality of
eternity since you left home and some in
averry suden and awful manner

mr dyer dyed the same day you
left home. mrs thomas is dead mr
reuben paine david c cook was drowned
the next day after you left and the next
monday there was three drowned to the
south part of town mr william riches son
nathannal and limen baker and mr henry
riches son two of them was piked up and
buried.

now i must talk a little about our
famely your father expects to go to
boston by christmas to spend the winter

benjamin was married last week
he is going to live here to take care of the
cattle

betsey hinckley is agoing to be
married this week and there is great
many marriages which i have not room
to mention

we all send our love to you and
your uncles famely tell mary and sabrina
that we want verry much to see them

you must write again soon and
write all the perticulars we want you to
make all the improvement you can this
winter so i must conclude wishing you
all well

i remain your efectinate mother

Azubah Davis

ANDOVER TEACHERS SEMINARY

An Old New England School by
Claude Fuess devotes a chapter to the
Teachers Seminary.

The Seminary was started in 1829 as an "English Department" of Phillips Academy, using funds from a bequest of William Phillips which his friend "Squire Farrar", knowing his wishes, influenced the Trustees to devote to this purpose. A stone Academy was erected just to the west of where the Phillips Academy Chapel now stands. This building housed a unique institution, a "vocational" rather than the conventional "classical" school. It was equipped with experimental laboratories and offered normal, scientific, business, agricultural and commercial courses.

In 1835 it became a separate school called The TEACHERS SEMINARY. The curriculum was to extend over three years, with four yearly terms of eleven weeks each, beginning in December, March, June and September. The "Anniversary" exercises were to be held in July. The tuition was to be fifty cents to a dollar a week.

A large proportion of the students came from Andover as day pupils. For the boarders there were built 1834-36 six Teachers Halls, known as English commons, parallel to and north of the Latin Commons of similar design on Phillips Street. These were of "unadorned simplicity characteristic of the packing box", three stories high with

two suites of two bed-rooms and study on each floor. Each suite was equipped with very simple furniture and a stove. The student furnished his own fuel which with water from the pump he carried to his room himself. The rent of these rooms was to be one dollar a term.

At one time a farm was connected with the School which gave the students an opportunity to earn money, to put agricultural theory into practice and to provide food for the school table.

In 1842 the School was discontinued as a separate institution and merged with Phillips Academy.

Several receipted bills made out to J. H. Davis by the Trustees of Phillips Academy, signed by Samuel Farrar, Treasurer, have been preserved. These are dated July 21, 1836, March 1, 1837, July 26, 1837 and April 18, 1838 and are for tuition, \$9. a term. Another receipt is for board at English Commons, Nov. 16, 1836, 10-5/7 weeks, \$18.89.

(From the notes of Helen Davis)



Stone Academy Samaritan House Students' Workshop Seminary Buildings

THE ACADEMY IN 1830



General View of Academy Buildings in 1830

Obtaining an Education

Early in December, 1835, I left home to attend school at the Teachers Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts, an institution especially designed to qualify young men for the profession of teacher.

At the close of the winter term, I returned home entirely unsettled in regard to my future occupation.

During the winter I was persuaded by my teachers to prepare myself for the calling of a teacher, and received flattering testimonials in regard to my ability to acquire and communicate knowledge.

My brother, Captain Dyer (*brother-in-law*), generously offered to furnish such pecuniary aid as I might require. I decided to return to Andover and embraced all the branches pursued in colleges at that time, except for Latin and Greek.

I entered the Seminary in April 1836 and was admitted to an advanced class and soon succeeded in overcoming the feeling of jealousy which my promotion awakened in my fellow students.

In order that students might have an opportunity to obtain experience in teaching while pursuing their studies, the regular classes had a variation during the winter months. In common with all my classmates, I improved the winter vacations in teaching school. During the first winter, I lived in my father's family and taught a public school in the same building in which I attended school in my boyhood. During the second winter I

taught at Pond Village and boarded with Mrs. Mary Nye.

I graduated July 24, 1838, but continued my connection with the Seminary until the spring of 1839 to pursue the study of Latin and Greek. I was employed meanwhile by the Trustees of the Seminary to conduct recitations in the Mathematical Department of the School.

I was asked to remain at Andover during the winter of 1838-39 and devote my entire time to teaching in the Seminary; but I had been previously engaged to teach a public school in Truro. That school was the eastern school north of Pamet River. I boarded with brother Ebenezer and Mr. John C. Knowles.

In the spring of 1839, I left Andover, opened a private school in Truro and continued the study of Latin with Rev. Charles Boyter, Congregational minister.

I was 24 when I completed Andover, owed several hundred dollars and was obliged to commence life at a disadvantage. But I have never regretted the course I pursued. My only regret is that I could not have commenced a systematic course of study at an earlier period of my life.

Joshua H. Davis
Book of family History

In the following group of letters, the name Hezekiah Doane ("hezkihah") shows up twice. He was living in the household of Ebenzer and Azubah Davis, and his status seems to be that of "foster son."

Hezekiah was probably in his early teens, and the Davises saw to it he went to school.

He was "family" enough to be invited to share writing paper with Azubah when she wrote to Joshua.

He was there for at least several months, and Ebenezer was concerned enough about his health to mention it in his letter to Joshua.

Hezekiah seemed to have a proprietary interest in the colt, and he was very pleased to have received a letter from Joshua.

The name Doane was not prominent in Truro, and none of our ancestors married anyone named Doane.

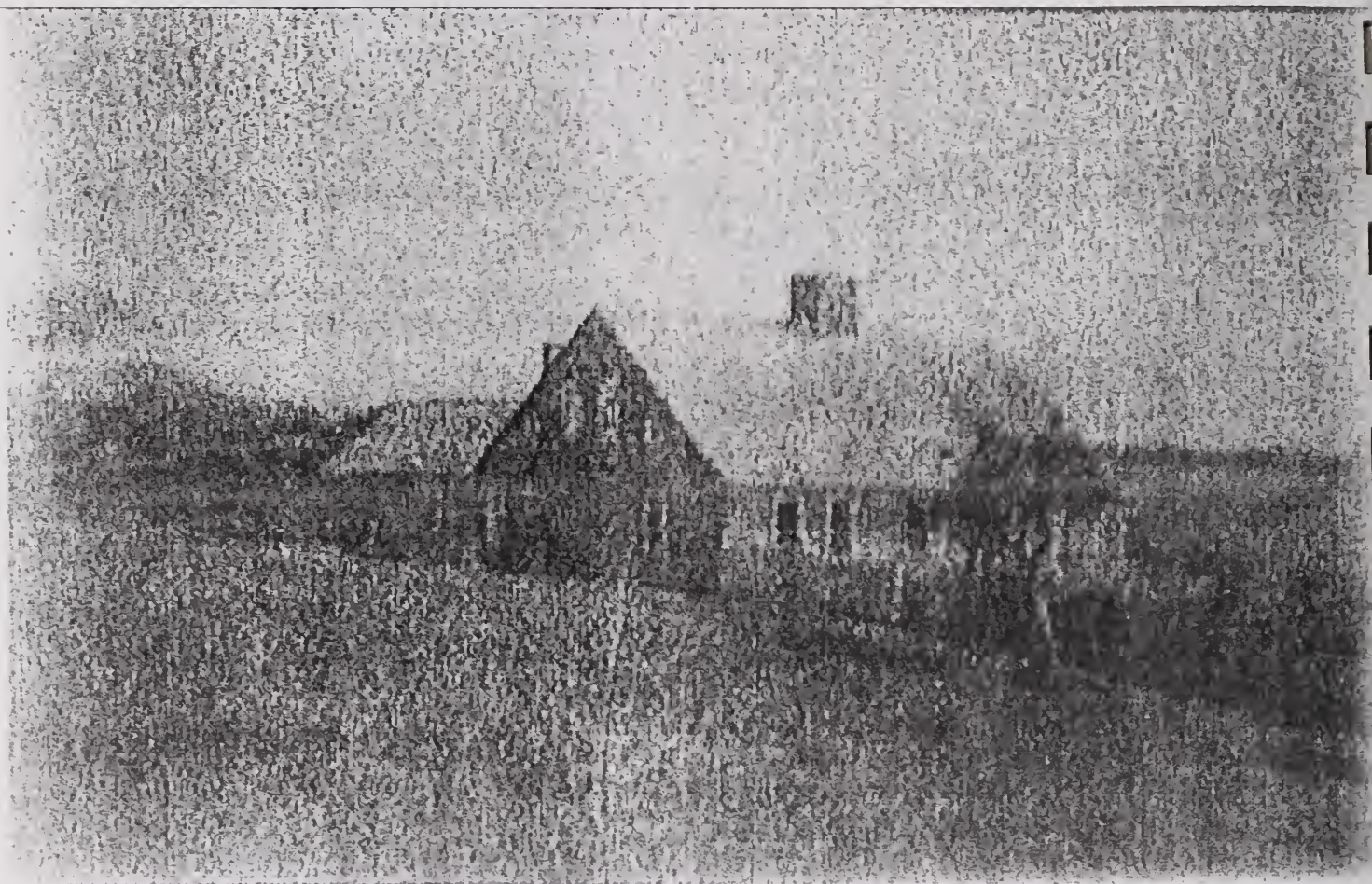
Hezekiah was probably an orphan. Where he came from or how he ended up with Ebenezer and Azubah Davis is unknown.

However, it is entirely within the purview of Azubah's well-known benevolence to take him in and provide a home.

* * * * *

Also interesting is the "September 23 1836" letter from Azubah. She is interrupted by her son Ebenezer who just can't wait for his mother to finish writing.

I can clearly picture this abrupt, impatient young man grabbing the pen from his mother's hand, dashing off his news, and giving the pen back so Azubah can sign off.



"The Old Homestead"
Truro, Cape Cod
Built 1803

Mr Joshua H. Davis
Malden

to the care of Henry H. Henshaw Jr

Worcester June 11th 1835

Dear Son with pleasure we received yours on the
1st instant informing us that you are all well
which we are glad to hear we are all well at present
Elizabeth has been sick but is getting better we
have nothing new to write we have letters from
Benjamin Dear he arrived safe 33 Days passage
I hope you have not lost all your impressions
about religion it is what we must all have to
make us fit to live dear and fit to die
The Lord preserves you and your family and we
shall all remember our love to you all
hoping you will improve your selves we all
you must write often as you can make it
convenient from your affectionate father

Wm L Davis

Truro June 17 1835

Dear Son with pleasure we reseved
yours on the 10 insteant informing us
that you are all weall wich we was
glade to heare

We are all weall at pressent
hezkihah has bin Sick but is getinge
bater We have nothing newe to rite

Buteare [but hear?] from
Banjamin Diear he arrived safe 83
Days pasheage

i hope you have not lost all
your impraashions about religion

it is wat we must all hav to
make us fite to live hear and fite to
die

the Colte proveas good and
geantle and loocks weall

we all remember our lov to
you all hoping you will injoye your
Libry weall

you must rite often as you can
make it conviante

from your Efetnate fathear

Ebnr L Davis

From my
10th May 3

12/1

M^r Joshua N. Davis

Andover

Wesf

Tuoro february 4th 1836

Dear son with pleasure i improve a few moments to inform you
that we are all well except some of the children have the
measels we received your letter and was glad to hear you
are enjoying yourself so well but i hope your mind wont be
wholly taken up with the things of this world so as to ~~neglect~~
neglect the one thing needful i feel it is important that
we make preparation for a future world while we see our neighbour
falling victims to death it speaks loud to us to be ye also
ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man
cometh since last saturday mrs olive snow and gemima
lombard have died and we know not whose turn will be
next there has been a few conversions here and isaac paine
is one of them we want to see you very much we hope you
will return safe and find us all well you must excuse
my writing and spelling so no more at present
i remain your affectionate mother Azubah Davis

Free February 5 1836

Dear sir I improve at full business
moments to inform you that I
am well hoping that these few
lines will find you the same I have
received your letter I was glad that
you was well and that you notice me
enough of me to write me. At few
lines I like my master very well
as to my improvement I have done
the best I could and that is very
small. arithmetic comes very hard ^{saac pain}
am in hopes that it will come easier
by and by the colic is very sick
in good cases he has not been out of
the ^{for ice and snow} barn this two days I should like
to see you and I hope that you will
be to home the time appointed my
Pen is poor I remain your friend

Herkinah Doane



truro february 5th 1836

Dear son with pleasure i improve a few moments to inform you that we are all well except some of the children have the measels

we receivd your letter and was glad to hear you are injoying yourself so well but i hope your mind wont be wholly taken up with the things of this world so as to neglect the one thing needful

i feel it is important that we make preparation for a future world while we see our neighbours falling victoms to death it speaks loud to us to be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh

sience last saturday mrs olive snow and jemima lombard have died and we know not whose turn will be next

there has been a^{few} conversions here and isaac paine is one of them

we want to see you very much we hope you will return safe and find us all well

you must excuse my writeing and spelling so no more at present

i remain your efectinate mother

Azubah Davis

Truro February 5 1836

Dear sir I improve a few leasure moments to inform you that I am well hoping that these few lines will find you the same

I have received your letter I was glad that you was well and that you notice me enough of me to write me A few lines

I like my master very well as to my improvement I have don the best I could and that is very small

arithmetic comes very hard am in hopes that it will come easier by and by

the colt is very slick in good ease he hasen't been out of the barn for ice and snow this two days

I should like to see you and I hope that you will be home the time apointed

my pen is poor

I remain your fine friend

Hezekiah Doane

Truro September 23rd 1836

Dear Son i embrace a few lieure moments to communicate
afew thoughts thinking it will be gratifying to you to
receive afew serals from me to let you know that we
we all well at present hoping this will find you the
ne we received your letter and was glad to hear you
doing so well we have been verry lonesome this summer
by the blessing of god our folks are returning some
in Solomon and benjamin and wifes and ebenezzer is now
me but is bound to boston with his wife and if he can
meet you in lowel he will let you know betay left

some day a week and will leave boston to morrow or
monday for the west she said she had not any thing interesting
to write now but if she arived to her journey's end she would
write all about it her children are with me and seem well
contented we shall look for benjamin dyer in about ten days
i. — Mother says she has got ashore & as I am
ever disposed to help the old lady out of her
difficulties I have taken her pen just to tell you
that Sarah Davis is about to be married to Dr.
Haight. & as Mr Shennedy depends on your keeping
their school & the Dr. is to occupy Isaac's House
you will have a place of news through the
winter. I ebenezzer am to leave here for Boston
the first wind with my wife & two children
& mother has tolod you what I will do if I have time
from your affectionate mother & Sarah Davis.

truro september 23 its 1836

Dear son i imbrace a few liesure
moments to communicate a few thoughts
thinking it will be gratifiing to you to
receive a few scrals from me to let you
know that we are all well at present
hopeing this will find you the same

we received your letter and was
glad to hear you are doing so well

we have been verry lonesome
this summer

by the blessing of god our folks
are returning Some _____ Solomon
and benjamin and wifes and ebenezer is
now home but is bound to boston with
his wife and if he can meet you in lowel
he will you know betsy left home _____
day a week and will leave boston to
morrow or monday for the west

she said she had not any thing
interresting to write now but if she
arived to her journeys end she would
write all about it

her children are with me and
seem well contented

we shall look for benjamin dyer
in about ten days

i.----

Mother says she has got
ashore & as I am ever disposed to
help the old Lady out of her
difficulties & have taken her pen
jist to tell you that Sarah Davis is
about to be married to Dr. Knight
& as Mr. Kenney depends on your
keeping their school & the Dr. is to
occupy Isaac's house you have a
place of resort through the winter.

I Ebenezer am to leve here
for Boston the first wind with my
wife & two children & mother has
told what I will do if I have time

from your efectinate mother

Azubah Davis

truro september 23 its 1836

Dear son i imbrace afew liesure
moments to communicate a few thoughts
thinking it will be gratifiing to you to
receive a few scrals from me to let you
know that we are all well at present
hopeing this will find you the same

we received your letter and was
glad to hear you are doing so well

we have been verry lonesome
this summer

by the blessing of god our folks
are returning Some _____ Solomon
and benjamin and wifes and ebenezer is
now home but is bound to boston with
his wife and if he can meet you in lowel
he will you know betsy left home _____
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I Ebenezer am to leve here
for Boston the first wind with my
wife & two children & mother has
told what I will do if I have time

from your efectinate mother

Azubah Davis

truro september 7 1837

Dear son it is with pleasure i
improve a few moments to answer
your letter of the third and was glad
to hear you was all well and was
giting along so well

we will endeavor to meet
your wants by the time you come to
boston i will send the cloth for
Jazaniah cloths and he must git them
made there but dont git them made to
small

we have received a letter
from betsy she wrote they were all
well

ebenezer is yet at home but
he has bought a vessel and expects to
go in two weeks

benjamin is now gone to
barnstable in Jury

give my love to elizabeth and
tell her i look for her letter but my
scralls do look bad

she must excuse me if i dont
answer it i hope she will soon be at
home

we are all injoying good
health at present write often as
convient i need not tell you my pen
in poor and writein likewise so i
close from your efectinate mother

Azubah Davis

Joshua had another correspondent while he was away at school.

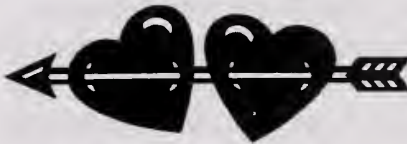
Anna Gross Lombard was the girl he fell in love with at age eight. At the time of these letters, they undoubtedly had an "understanding."

Among my prize possessions is a lap desk Joshua Davis made for Anna Lombard in 1835. Anna was about 17 and Joshua about 21 when he gave her this labor of love.

I hope the reader delights as I did in the relationship this young couple enjoyed during the 1830's. They were simpatico; immensely comfortable with one another; took pleasure in bantering and teasing one another; and they were totally

I-N L-O-V-E.

S.E.H.



SECOND DAY WEDDING

Grandfather once explained to us the meaning of this phrase.

In those days when families were large and houses small, the bride's family were entertained at her home on the day of her wedding. On the next day the groom's relatives gathered at his home to honor the newly wedded pair.

In a letter written to his daughter Mary after Grandmother's death, he refers to this occasion:

"Our acquaintance began at Uncle Isaac's second day wedding in the spring of 1823, when I was eight and one-half years old, and she four and one half.

"Her beauty and sprightliness impressed me and my memory has borne that impression all these years."

In 1895 six-year-old Harry Truman walked into the classroom of the First Presbyterian Church and saw "a little blue-eyed golden-haired girl" named Bess Wallace.

To the end of his life, he insisted that he fell in love with five-year-old Bess Wallace on the spot and never stopped loving her.

"I though she was the most beautiful and the sweetest person on earth."



Correspondence between Joshua Davis and Anna Lombard

A few of the letters which passed between Grandfather and Grandmother while he was a student at Andover have been preserved, covering the period between August 27, 1837 and October 20, 1838. One might hesitate to peruse this intimate correspondence between the engaged couple were it not for the light it throws on their personalities and their times.

Naturally they have much to say of their "lonesomeness" in separation, their longing "to spend a few happy hours together" in Joshua's coming vacation, their anticipation of the time when they shall be in "the constant enjoyment each other's society" and "together share the joys and sorrows of life, for that alone can tend to increase its joys and alleviate its sorrows."

They also write at length on the subject of religion, of the necessity of making an early decision and of beginning the Christian life together.

On September 23, 1838, Joshua writes:

"...not that I think an individual in order to be a Christian must put on a sorrowful countenance or lead a gloomy life, for I think that religion of all other things is calculated to render one cheerful and happy.

"It is a reasonable subject and commends itself to the understanding of every rational mind and it is a duty we owe to our maker to attend immediately to it, to say nothing of the happiness which results from it.

"But it affords satisfaction to the mind which earth cannot bestow, it also furnishes an assurance of a blissful immortality."

On October 20th, Anna expresses her agreement:

"I do think religion is the one thing needful and the only thing that will offer substantial happiness in this world and a hope of blissful immortality in the world to come."

Evidently Anna is teaching a school near her home while Joshua is in Andover. On June 17, 1838 she writes:

"The weather is extremely pleasant though rather warm to keep school. I am almost tired of climbing up that school house hill; but then it is so much better than it is to make hats that I feel quite contented; but it does require a great deal of patience, I can assure you, to take care of so many roguish boys.

"I like my employment very well but I expect some of the scholars wont like me very well; for I am so much more strict with them than they have been used to.

"I suppose they thought they would do as they did last summer but I am determined to please myself.

"I have something to remind me of you every time I look at the black board for the representation and the same figures remain as when we last quitted the school house together....

"But O how extremely pleasant it would be could you but call in sometimes after school while I am sweeping the house and putting things in order (as I always do after school) and give me some good advice....."

In August the "Bankers" are at home from their summer fishing on the Georges Banks of Newfoundland. Joshua thinks it will not seem quite so "lonesome" now as when he was at home but Anna replies:

"You don't think they will be any company for me I hope, for what do I care for their fat cheeks and full pockets or their company. They are nothing to me neither do I wish them to be and if I should happen to see them in the meeting house without you, it would only make me feel still more lonesome: and I should think how far superior you would look than any of them....."

But in October Anna writes:

"Sylvanus (*Collins, to whom her older sister Betsey was engaged*) has not got home yet, he went away before you came home last summer, and not home yet, is not he a smart skipper. I think I had much rather you would be where you now are, than to be at the Bay where he is at this season of year. I think I should not take much comfort if you were there now, and I do hope that you will never go to sea, for it appears I should not have many happy moments if you did."

Joshua meanwhile is applying himself to his studies. Only on a Saturday afternoon does he take time out to write to Anna, as "that is the only leisure time I have to appropriate to such pursuits."

In August 1837, he confesses to having "one sick week."

"I don't really know what was the trouble though they pretend to say that I studied too hard."....."I therefore dispensed with all study for a day or two and kept house which soon cured me.....It was a lonesome time. It was then that a visit from you would have been joyfully received. That would have changed solitude to pleasure and caused those lonely hours to have passed cheerfully."

He seems to be entirely recovered soon after, for he writes:

"A few afternoons since, just as I had got under way studying and was trying to get my tongue around my french lesson, the old lady who takes care of matters and things in the house sent for me post haste, she said her daughter went to her sister's about three miles off to stop one day but had been gone three, and she was the dreadfulest on it sure for what had become of her she did not know. She said I must go and see what end she had made."

"I did not feel very well to go just in that juncture of getting my lesson, but no would no do for an answer, for there was no manfolks at home."

"I accordingly rigged up the old horse and waggon which looked as much worse than Atkins's as you can imagine; and took with me a sprightly girl of thirty as a pilot, thus fixed we started Gilpin-like, the horse's head and tail both being on a level; we went as though life was at stake, or at least as they said the old horse was never known to go before.

"We found the old lady's darter safe and sound, and took her in with us.

"I tell you what, I felt not a little proud to be riding out thus with two ladies when every fellow could not get one, but however we returned much to the satisfaction of the old lady and I have not heard from them since. So much for an Andover chaise ride.

Anna refers in one of her letter to his having delivered a Temperance lecture, apparently to the mill girls.

"I should like to mingle with the crowd of rib factory girls while you were delivering your piece. I should think it would be equal to ascending the pulpit to deliver a Temperance lecture."

On the eve of his graduation July 4, 1838, he writes:

"Well at this juncture we are all full of examinations which will soon be over. Tuesday afternoon comes the Exhibition, and you may depend that I shall be glad to see Tuesday night come. That you see will clean up matters for this term and then I have about ten days work to do in the shop. But in anticipation of

coming home I shall feel like making tools and shavings fly pretty rapidly, and mean to get through so as to be at home in two weeks from today, if so, I shall have three Sundays to stay at home. Will not that be clever?"

He seems to have returned to Andover for a short fall term to teach and to study. On September 2d he is again writing to Anna:

"I believe that you was the last individual I saw in Truro; for just as we started from the wharf you was going under the shore bound home from school, and just as we were going out of sight, I saw you peep over the hill. What a boy to be watching the girls so sharp. But that was the last peep I expect to take again very soon."

September 23

"Since I last wrote, I have been down to Boston. I received a letter from Benjamin Dyer requesting me to come down and see him and his folks who were there. It happened that I received his letter just the day that they had their anniversary at the Theological Seminary and the exercises in our school were suspended in consequence of it. So I improved the opportunity and went down, had a very pleasant visit. Stopped all night with Benjamin Hinckley who with Miss Olive came to Andover with me the next day to attend a Camp Meeting."

October 14

"If I mistake not, this day brings you out of your teens. What a piece of work, twenty years old and not married yet and that is not the worst of it. But there is a time and season for all things and there is no knowing but that your time will come bye and bye. So keep up good courage. The world was not made in a minute you know. I should like right well to follow the example of some of the other boys but circumstances do not seem to admit of it yet awhile."

The last letter of the series is written by Anna on October 20th and shows concern about Joshua's plans for the winter.

"I have been informed by Elizabeth (*Joshua's niece Elizabeth Dyer who was a student at Abbott Academy in Andover*) that they want you to stop to Andover this winter as a teacher, and that you expect to, if you can get excused from your engagements from home. I do not like to hear such news very well, and don't know as you meant for me to hear of it, as you did not mention it in your letter, but I hope that will not be the case, but that you will spend the winter at home, for the very thought that it should be otherwise, makes me have what I term lows, but I shall try to think that things will turn out for the best. I doubt not but that you will do as you think is best."

The "engagement" is evidently the one which Grandfather refers to himself and from which the "committee" did not release him. He taught in Truro that winter but must

have returned to Andover after the winter term was over, for he says he severed his connection with Andover Seminary in the spring of 1839.

These letters are written in a beautiful fine script on a double sheet of paper, ten inches by eight, the last page left blank, and so folded that the address may be written on the back, and the folded sheet sealed. In the upper left corner of the space for the address is the postmark, stamped in Andover, written in Truro, and in the upper right corner is written the rate of postage, 12-1/2.

In his letter of July 24, 1838, J. H. D. refers to having "about ten days work to do in the shop." Can this be the carpenter shop referred to by Sarah Stuart Robbins in her "OLD ANDOVER DAYS"?

A stone shell of a building was erected on the north side of the Common as a Carpenter Shop designed to give the Theological Students an opportunity for useful physical exercise. The work assigned them was that of making coffins!

Later this building became the residence of Prof. Stowe and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, afterward a part of the Phillips Inn and is now a residence on Bartlet Street, back of the present Inn.



TRURO BEACH, MASSACHUSETTS.

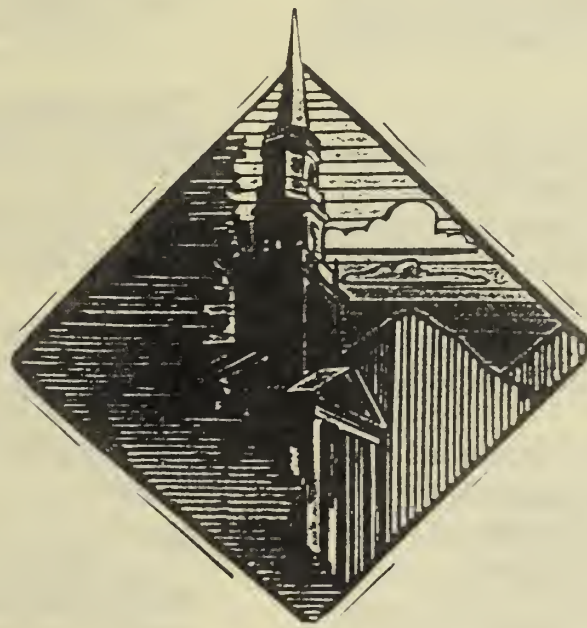
Address by Joshua H. Davis

In Commemoration of

The 8th Anniversary of the

Truro Temperance Society

Winter of 1837 - 1838



Truro Congregational Church

Notes

At the time of this address, Joshua was 23 years old and teaching a school in Truro. He would return to Andover in the spring of 1838 for one more term.

Little did Joshua know this lengthy piece of writing, intended for speaking purposes, would find its way into print for our reading pleasure.

The speech was not punctuated as a piece of formal writing would be. I quit replicating his written words after a few pages. He used semicolons liberally (and incorrectly), so I reverted to a more modern and comfortable format.

I found this speech to be fascinating for many reasons:

1. It was probably accompanied by the prescribed oratorical gestures of the day.
2. I feel it may have been connected to, or a result of, his studies at Andover. Oratory was probably one of the subjects taught at Andover, and practical application may have been assigned to him.
3. The examples, allegories, and illustrations used reflect a broad spectrum and extensive research of academic subjects.

Chemistry	Ancient History
Biology	American History
Astronomy	World History
Geology	Local History
Agriculture	Current Events
Statistics	Literature
Theology	Ocean Navigation

Joshua's formal education began at age 21. It's mind-boggling to consider the extent of his intellect. It was uncultivated for so long and burgeoned so rapidly, he could speak knowingly and comfortably on many subjects.

Amazingly, the Temperance Society of 1837 embraced several contemporary Alcoholics Anonymous tenets.

"It causes partial...occasional... and permanent derangement." (T.S.)

"...the insanity of alcoholism..." (A.A.)

"Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging." (T.S.)

"Alcohol is cunning, baffling, and powerful." (A.A.)

"It destroys the tranquillity...of families..." (T.S.)

"Alcoholism is a family disease." (Alanon)

The big difference between the two is that the Temperance Society attempted to handle things "before the fact", whereas A.A. handles things "after the fact."

I think it is safe to assume his beloved Anna Lombard was in the audience to hear this speech.

Finally, I would love to know what a Thompsonian Steam operation was!

S.E.H.

**My first public address delivered in the
Cong. Chh. in Truro. Winter of
1837-38**

Time by its revolutions has brought to celebrate the eighth anniversary (*sic*) of our Temperance Society. I can but feel a degree of diffidence (in compliance with the request of its directors) in attempting to address you on a subject of so great importance as the one before us for our consideration this evening, and think you must agree with me that even an experienced speaker would be justified in making at least a few apologies on the present occasion.

For the subject before us is one which you have heard spoken of so frequently and it has been presented to you, in so great a variety of ways; and by men well able to do the subject ample justice.

And the whole subject has been agitated for so great a length of time; that at the present period, a new idea, or an original thought, on the subject, of temperance is as rarely found as is a vacuum in nature.

But I flatter myself that these things will be taken into consideration, and appreciated by you; and that I shall at least share in your patience and charity, if not sympathy - with these considerations only have I pledged myself to occupy your attention for a short time this Evening.

Though I may despair of presenting anything new or interesting; if I can succeed in stirring up your pure minds by way of remembrance perhaps our time may not be wholly lost.

For although this subject has been treated of until it has failed of being one of interest; it is by no means time for silence - for so long as men continued to pervert nature and whilst the productions of the earth given to man for benevolent purposes by a beneficial being; are transformed into that which tend to their destruction and while intemperance continues to exert its baneful influence, and is filling our country and the world with desolation and misery. So long should the friends of humanity raise their voices and exert their influence to avert the storm which it threatens.

The earth in its first estate was created perfect, and man was formed in a state of purity, bearing the image of his divine originals, and the most noble and ingenuous production of that infinite mind.

But ever since the scene of Eden, men have continued to pervert the ways of their maker; and to depart from those things which tend to their own happiness and highest good; leaving God as the only proper source of true happiness; they have ever been inventing improper means of mental and physical enjoyment and gratification.

In every age of the world from the fall of man to the present time; Satan has found means though the influence and pervert power; of men to advance his kingdom; to fill the world with iniquity; and to set men at variance with their maker.

But probably there never was or ever will be a discovery so fatal to man; so efficacious in filling the world with misery, in shortening mens probation, in

producing crime, disease, and death, of peopling a world of despair with unhappy beings; as the principal cause of intoxication.

The intoxicating principle used in our country is said to have been discovered in Arabia, early in the tenth century when it received the name of Alcohol. It was soon found to contain poisonous properties, and was ranked among other substances of that nature and treated as such.

Even its best advocates at that time never imagined that the time would ever arrive (*sic*) in which people would use it as a drink. Well would it have been for men, and for the world, had this opinion ever been entertained and had this substance never extended beyond the laboratory of the chemist.

It was first used by physicians as a medicine, early in the thirteenth century, in the South of Europe; and from its stimulating properties it gained the appellation of water of life; and soon became as important an article with physicians of those times as opium, by physicians at the present time. It was used in almost every medication, and for almost every disease.

A writer of the sixteenth century speaking of its qualities says it sloweth age, strengthens youth, helps digestion, abandoneth melancholy, cheers the heart, lighteneth the mind, quickeneth the spirits - Keeps the head from whirling, the eyes from dazing, tongue from lispings, the hand from trembling, and what was worst it would burn being kindled.

In fine one would infer that it was considered by the people of those times as potent in removing disease and as efficacious in restoring health as is a Thompsonian Steam operation, by many at the present time.

The component parts of Alcohol are oxygen, hydrogen and carbon - It has long been satisfactorily shown by chemists that it is not a production of creation; and is found in no living substance in nature.

But it can be manufactured from all substances that contain saccharine properties, though not until these substances have undergone a change, termed by chemists binous fermentation, by which means fermented liquors are obtained; and then by a process of distillation Alcohol is produced.

That alcohol is a substance altogether different from anything found in nature; will appear very obvious upon a little examination.

We see various and striking changes going on in nature daily, time with its revolutions is continually bringing them about - the animal and vegetables kingdoms are constantly changing places.

Animal bodies decay and aid in the production of vegetables, which go again to support still other animals. And as Pope admirably expresses it, all forms that finish their forms supply, by turns we catch the vital spark and die.

That the same element in different combinations will produce substances altogether different is their nature, is obvious from their different effects.

Thus the two substances oxygen and nitrogen, when united in certain proportions form atmospheric air the substance which is so essential to our existence; to the growth of animals, to plants and which occupies so conspicuous a place in nature.

But when they are united in certain other proportions they form a gas, which when breathed into the lungs, produces all the effect upon the system which are witnessed in the first stages of intoxication.

And when united in still other proportions, they constitute a substance highly corrosive and if breathed into the lungs in large quantities will produce death.

Each of the above mentioned substances contain the same elements. But the difference in their natures and results is owing to the different combination of these elements.

Again from the two substances, oxygen and hydrogen, of which oxygen is a good supporter of combustion, and hydrogen a highly inflammable substance - when united in certain proportions and subjected to the electric spark, will generate water which contain the elements which when taken in a separate state are inflammable and aid combustion; but when united in the form of water, will destroy combustion.

Thus we may see in a variety of instances that the same elements in different combinations will produce substances entirely different both in their nature and effects.

And it may be shown that although the elements which enter into combination to form alcohol may be found in various substances in nature. Still it may be shown that they are not found combined in any living substance in such proportions as are requisite to form alcohol.

And it would be as reasonable to say that because oxygen and hydrogen when taken separately are inflammable and supported of combustion, that they would continue to possess the same properties when united in the form of water as to say that because the elements which enter into combination to form the productions of nature; may be so combined as to form alcohol - an intoxicating principle is a production of nature.

Every industrious individual who looks to the soil for support, is found manuring that soil to add to its fertility but how does it add to its fertility? It is evident that various remains of animal and vegetable matter placed there are not the products which the farmer wishes to gather.

But it can be shown, and that satisfactorily, that these remains contain elements which are gathered by the farmer and to support animal life.

Peculiarly striking are the operations and results of nature - the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament (*sic*) sheweth his handy works.

But whenever we turn our eyes to contemplate nature, and throughout the vast universe of God, we discover everything subject to certain laws - and all nature were excepted, appears to unite in yielding obedience to these laws.

The Earth which we inhabit in its diurnal revolutions and in its revolutions around the supposed center as well as the remotest star that twinkles in the utmost range of the telescope of a Herschel alike obey the laws that were established when they were first hurled into existence by that omnipotent hand

There are certain laws, physical and moral, by which we are governed; The laws of our nature act independently and a strict adherence to each one of them will inevitably secure happiness.

And were men wise, were they as obedient to the laws of their creator as are his other works, this would be a happy world

But this is not the case for we find man the noblest being of the universe created but a little lower than the angels, endowed with the greatest capacity for enjoyment; apparently (*sic*) the most unhappy.

For all other animated nature that inhabit the air, earth, and sea, teem with delight - the feathered songsters of the forest warble forth their sweet melodies apparently in praise to the author of their being in which they appear so happy.

The cattle upon a thousand hills, show forth the merriness of their hearts by their gay skippings and sport. And even the inhabitants of the deep find means to show forth their delight.

Man in the midst of all this gait appears unhappy. What constitutes this difference? Is it that he is less susceptible of pleasure? Is it that he is not furnished with capacity (*sic*) or means of

gratification? By no means, for all the other productions of nature are at his disposal; each of his corporeal senses are a medium of pleasure which the works of nature are calculated to produce.

The eye is calculated to cheer the heart, and scarcely a day or an hour passes but that there is something presented to that organ calculated to add to its possessors happiness and gratification.

The ear listens to the soft tones of musick (*sic*), the warbling of merry birds, the voices of mirth, and the heart is pleased.

Even the roar of the ocean and the voice of thunder, though they do not produce emotions so pleasing, still they call forth the mind to contemplations equally as profitable.

The flowers of spring and the fragrant breeze (*sic*) are both sources of pleasure to man

The autumnal fruits - the productions of the earth, while they tend to his support are also sources of gratification. In fine all the other works of nature seem intended for man's use and happiness. But if so why is he found thus unhappy?

The reason is obvious. We have said that an adherence to the laws of our nature would inevitably insure us happiness. But it is also true that not one of the laws of our nature can be violated with impunity.

All the evils attendant on human existence, when traced to their legitimate (*sic*) causes, will be found to have originated in the violation of some law.

Our first parents by the violation of the command of the creator; brought death into the world and all our woes. Thus we see that a single violation is frequently the cause of a great amount of punishment.

Not many years since, a vessel entered a European port having on board a cargo of powder. By some unfortunate circumstance fire was communicated to that combustible substance, and results the most awful followed. The powder exploded the city demolished and hundreds of the unsuspecting inhabitants were buried in its ruins.

All this evil resulted from the violation of an established law, since in the city of N. Y. an individual accidentally communicated a single spark of fire to some combustible matter. The result was the awful conflagration which followed this. The burning of so great a portion of the city and the destruction of so great an amount of property, that this also was a violation of an established law of our nature needs not a demonstration.

Experience and observation as taught us that any excessive indulgence ever in the necessities of life is attended with injurious consequences. Much more then will an excessive indulgence in a substance like alcohol, which is in its nature a poison, produces injurious effects upon the system.

But the penalty attached to the violation of a law is not always executed at the time of the violation and because that there are no immediate, obvious effects seen to result from the use of spirituous liquors.

Many persist (*sic*) in its use, and flatter themselves that it never will produce any evil effects upon them. Or in other words, because judgment for an evil work is not executed speedily, the hearts of the children of men are fully set in them to do evil.

But what are the effects of alcohol? It has been stated that it is a poison, and when taken unmixed in no very large quantities it produces death. The stomach refuses to digest it; and from its subtle nature it is diffused throughout the system - not a blood vessel, however minute, not a thread of nerve escapes its influence.

If alcohol is taken into the system, it is alcohol still, it has been distilled from the blood, and found even in the cavities of the brain of individuals who have made a free use of it.

It debilitates the system, induces disease and shortens life.

Its influence upon the mind will follow from its effects upon the body.

For the body is to the mind what the machine is to artist, i.e., the medium through which it acts.

And just in proportion to the perfections of the machine, will the performance be complete, and the skill of the artist admired. Therefore, whatever tends to injure the machine will injure the performance and indirectly effect the artist.

Even so, the human system, the solo medium of the mind's operations producing similar effects upon the mind and of depreciating the means of the full development of all its faculties - for a

healthy system is as indispensable (*sic*) to vigorous mental action as to powerful physical or muscular action.

That the effects of alcohol upon the system does tend to impair the mental powers, to enfeeble the intellect, is positively proved in every individual who makes a free use of it.

Its immediate effect upon the system is to destroy reason; which is the great balance wheel, the governor, which regulates all the machinery; and which gives character to all the other operations (*sic*) of the mental faculties.

It not only causes partial, and occasional, but also permanent derangement. It is estimated that more than three fourths of the cases of insanity in the various insane hospitals resulted from a free use of spirituous liquors.

Were the human system and the intellect the extent of its influence, the evil would be small comparatively.

But it affects all the sensibilities of the soul. Men are influenced by motives, and such is their nature that they must necessarily act agreeably to the strongest motives. If the strongest motives were presented to us to murder our nearest friend or terminate our own existence, we could no more refrain from doing it than we could change the course of the sun.

But although we cannot act contrary to the strongest motives, still we have the power of presenting to our own minds, motives either for or against the side of right. Hence we infer that whatever tends to increase the motives to do wrong, and to lessen motives to do

right, will strongly influence the actions of men.

That intemperance has this effect is clearly demonstrated. It is estimated that seven-eighths of all the crimes committed in our community; originate from this source.

We frequently have in the confessions of pirates and other criminals that when they are about to enter an engagement or to perpetrate deeds of cruelty which even their scare consciences would not suffer them to do when in a sober state, the bottle is resorted to. And then all conscientious, scruples pertaining to the commission of such deed of wickedness were at once removed.

Wine is a mocker and strong [drink] is raging. It is a mover of seditions, it destroys the tranquillity, the peace and the safety of the communities towns neighborhoods, and families, even. It is a fruitful source of domestic discords and a destroyer of domestic happiness.

Instances frequently occur in which men who once possessed all the tender feelings of humanity; have been led by its influence to inhumanly butcher their families.

Follow imagination for a few moments; approach yonder dwelling situated in the midst of that beautiful and highly cultivated farm. As you approach its neat appearance, the thriving of everything about it proclaims it to be abode of industry and prosperity; obey its inviting appearance, and enter that dwelling. Every thing within is characteristic of its appearance without.

It is evening. The owner of that delightful abode upon whose brow appears health, vigor, and contentment; has completed the toils of the day. About him are seated his family whose sparkling eyes, and cheerful countenances proclaim that to be the abode of happiness and plenty. Virtue apparently never found a fairer temple or happiness a more delightful abode. Each one appeared trying his utmost to add to the happiness of the whole. In fine everything which could add to domestic happiness is found there.

Let a few years roll by, and pass that way again; how striking the change! Instead of the neat dwelling - that decorated beautiful farm, is seen a shattered mansion. Its covering is shabby; its windows are filled with rags.

Enter again that dwelling, and instead of meeting those cheerful countenances, as in former times, you see those only that bear the marks of grief and sorrow.

The trembling mother sits anxiously waiting and dreading the return of her once loved but now brutal husband, and the inhuman father of her famishing offspring.

At length the owner of that once happy abode enters. His deformed countenance, his staggering uncertain faltering step at once proclaim the cause of all this misery. Instead of that cheerful manly voice of former times, his mouth is filled with curses and imprecations; instead of acts of kindness he practices abuses of almost every description.

But he is not yet wholly depraved nor is his destruction complete. But in a

short time more that individual in a fit of intoxication inhumanly butchers the wife he once so tenderly cherished; and by her bleeding side lays lifeless those children once the delight of his heart. And then awaking to full sense of the magnitude of his crime, terminates with his own polluted hands his own miserable existence.

This, though fiction, is but a faint representation of what really and frequently occurs. Intemperance, wherever it makes its inroad, proves fatal to peace and happiness. It fills the land with criminals and crime; sets neighbours at variance; disturbs the peace of domestic circles; makes cruel and unfaithful husbands; inhuman fathers; unfeeling and disobedient children; bad members of society; and brings many to an untimely and ignominious grave.

So numerous are the evils resulting from it, that in attempting to enumerate we are at a loss to know where to commence. And wherever it enters a community, its effects are felt by all; for our man, by the violation of a law, may bring a great amount of evil upon others.

As in the case before referred to; the men who communicated the fire to the powder, were the cause of the destruction of the lives of hundreds of the unoffending (*sic*) inhabitants. The intemperate man who destroys his health, property, and reputation, by a frequent use of intoxicating liquors, causes his family and all with whom he is connected to suffer for that, which they would gladly have prevented.

The effects of intemperance are not confined to the intemperate and their connections but extends its influence all over the community.

For whatever tends to fill the land with crimes, poverty, paupers, and distress is an evil to the whole community.

That intemperance does all this is easily shown. For in the first instance, to furnish the intoxicating principle, it is estimated that at last 25,000,000 [] of grain are consumed in the U. S. annually - a sufficient explanation of the high price of that article.

For there are at least 50,000,000 of gallons of spirits manufactured in our country annually, and it requires one bushel of grain to make two gallons of spirits.

Did the evil stop here, was this amount of grain consumed annually by fire, or thrown into the sea and was this the end of it, it would be of sufficient magnitude to stimulate us to action to avert it.

To deprive a country like ours, containing [a] little [more] than 15,000,000 inhabitants - of 25,000,000 [] of grain sufficient for their support nearly 1/4 of a year; and which ought to be appropriated to that purpose; is by no means a small evil.

But this is only the beginning of the evils which follow in consequence. Next, the amount of labor lost in its manufacture, and to bond it, which ought to be appropriated to better purposes

But it may be said that this is not a total loss, inasmuch as the farmer who supplies the distiller with grain receives a remuneration for his services. And the manufacturer of it, furnishes employment for a large number of men. And then its

transportation and vending employs many others. But is all this anything to praise? By no means.

The pirate who commits his depredation upon the sea is furnished with employment for himself, and the goods which he plundered are sold at a cheap rate, which adds to the interest of the merchant. But is this any palliation to the crime of piracy?

The freebooter, or highwayman, who robs from the rich to give to the poor, wastes nothing, and though he may plead that his object is to distribute more equally the gifts of nature, and that he does it from pure motives, is nevertheless a transgressor. For this command is thou shalt not steal.

But in the first instance, if there were no distilleries, would there not be other means for the farmer to dispose of his grain; or if there were none, is this the only article which his soil will produce?

And those who are employed in the distilleries, could they not find employment somewhere else?

Even if they could not, and were they supported at the public expense, that expense would be trifling when compared with that which intemperance causes.

For the cost of spirituous liquors to the consumers, in our country, is estimated to be at least \$100,000,000 of dollars annually, and then the expense to the country for prisons and courts, for criminals and the support of paupers, which would not have been such, but for its baneful influences.

But the expense, though great, is lost in the magnitude of the other evils which it causes.

For it destroys peace and happiness, for which we are all aiming; it destroys health both physical and mental, which is so essential to happiness.

It also corrupts the heart, and debases the morals of the community, and causes thousands to die a drunkard's death and fill a drunkard's grave.

But in the midst of all this calamity there is a ray of hope, a prospect of better days - this is an age of reform and of temperance reform.

The cause of temperance has prospered beyond calculations, and thousands have become the subjects of its saving influence.

The first temperance Society was formed in 1812. Since that period more than 2,000,000 of our citizens have ceased to use intoxicating liquors; 3,000 distilleries have ceased operation; - 8,000 merchants have ceased to vend it; a great proportion of our vessels sail without it; and thousand of individuals have been rescued from a premature grave.

Nor need we extend beyond the limit of our own personal observation. Witness a striking change. The time was when it was fashionable and considered honorable even among us to tip a little, if it was not too deep. Every store was a bar-room and every house a restorater.

It was used on almost every occasion. Not a building could be raised,

or a harvest husked, or a house warmed, without its aid.

Did a party of friends assemble to spend an evening in social conversation, its presence was considered indispensable. Nor was its use confined to any particular age or sex, for while the glass was freely circulating among one part of the company, preparations were going on in another apartment in accommodate a glass to the more delicate tastes of the other sex.

How great the change. At the present time, not a merchant in our town or county, keeps for sale (or at least legally) and, very few comparatively, use it or cause it to be used. And to see a man intoxicated among us, would be almost a natural curiosity.

But the time has been when even the sacred desk did not escape its influence. I once heard an eminent and distinguished minister confide that the time had been when he considered a glass as not only necessary, but almost indispensable as he was about to enter upon the duties of the Sabbath. And doubtless for the time it did produce the effect of arousing some of his otherwise dormant energies.

But it was far from being the spirit which animated Peter upon the day of Pentecost, or Paul in the midst of Mars hill.

But it is hoped that the present age has learnt wisdom on this point; and that our ministers are influenced more by the spirit of the gospel which they preach.

Although the temperance reform has produced a great amount of good which still remains to be done, the appeal

is to every individual whether a philanthropist, or Christian, to exert their influence on the side of temperance. For thousand of our fellows, in all their guilt are yearly, through its influence, entering the confines of that world from whose bourn no traveller returns.

Let us pause for a moment and contemplate the drunkard's death, the drunkard's end - What are, or can be, his hopes of immortality - without one ray of hope to cheer him in that trying scene - wrought but the painful reflections of misspent and the awful forebodings of a dread eternity.

But on whom does it fall, to avert this cloud of darkness.

It is on us, on the youth of our happy land. The important interests of society, and of our country will soon devolve on us. Our fathers will soon have passed off the stage of action. Their whitened locks, the deep furrows of time upon their brows, remind of their mortality and enforces that the period of their human existence is very soon to terminate.

Our advantages for advancing the cause of temperance are very great over those who first commenced it. For the public mind is already awake to the importance of the subject; and more open to conviction. And while they themselves had to reform, we have only to refrain.

So it is a truth long since established that it is easier to abstain from an indulgence in any habit than to reform when once the habit has been contracted.

All doubtless are convinced of the baneful influence of intemperance, and that the cause of temperance is a good

one - one whose object is to add to the happiness and highest good of individuals and the peace and prosperity of the community. And I cannot think that there is a single individual, one young man, or one young lady even, in whose veins flows the blood of an American and about whose heart vibrates the chords of humanity, but that are ready to exert their influence on the side of temperance, and to crush the monster intemperance.

If so we would invite you to join with us, to add your name to our temperance list, if it is not already there.

But it may be said what will it avail for me to join? I am a temperance man by principle now, and I shall be no more if I join a temperance Society, and I can exert my influence on the side of intemperance even now.

All this may be true. But it is an old maxim - the truth of which we have often seen verified (*vis.*) that union is strength. The united efforts of a few, can accomplish more than the separate exertions of many.

We would not have it understood that we do not think that good many results from individual effort. Neither would we condemn a spirit like that manifested by the patriotic Jonathan of the revolution, who chose to fight on his own hook; but probably had all followed his example, we should have remained British subjects until this day, and America would have never been free.

But it may be said that we shall infringe upon our liberty, for if we become connected with your society, we cannot take even an occasional glass without violation.

This is indeed true, but instead of its being an objection it is one of the best recommendations to our temperance pledge, for we are beings of habit, and habits are strengthened by indulgence. Therefore we cannot allow ourselves even an occasional glass and be safe.

I once saw the account of an individual who had contracted a thirst for spirits, which had lowered him from an eminent sphere of action that he had filled will honor and success.

He was fully sensible of its pernicious effects upon him, but said he were the awful realities of eternity opened by my view, and could I see myself situated upon the very verge of the bottomless pit. And were I sure that did I drink, it would be my last, and that it would surely plunge me into its abyss forever - an appalling example of the almost invincible power of habit, and of the impotency of man when left to themselves.

Again it is said, I consider myself a friend to temperance and should have no objections to joining the society but for its false hearted members.

Friends! Members of the Truro Temperance Society! Is this assertion true? (If so it is certainly the most thrilling objection that can be raised against us, and is truly a pointed appeal to us for self examination.)

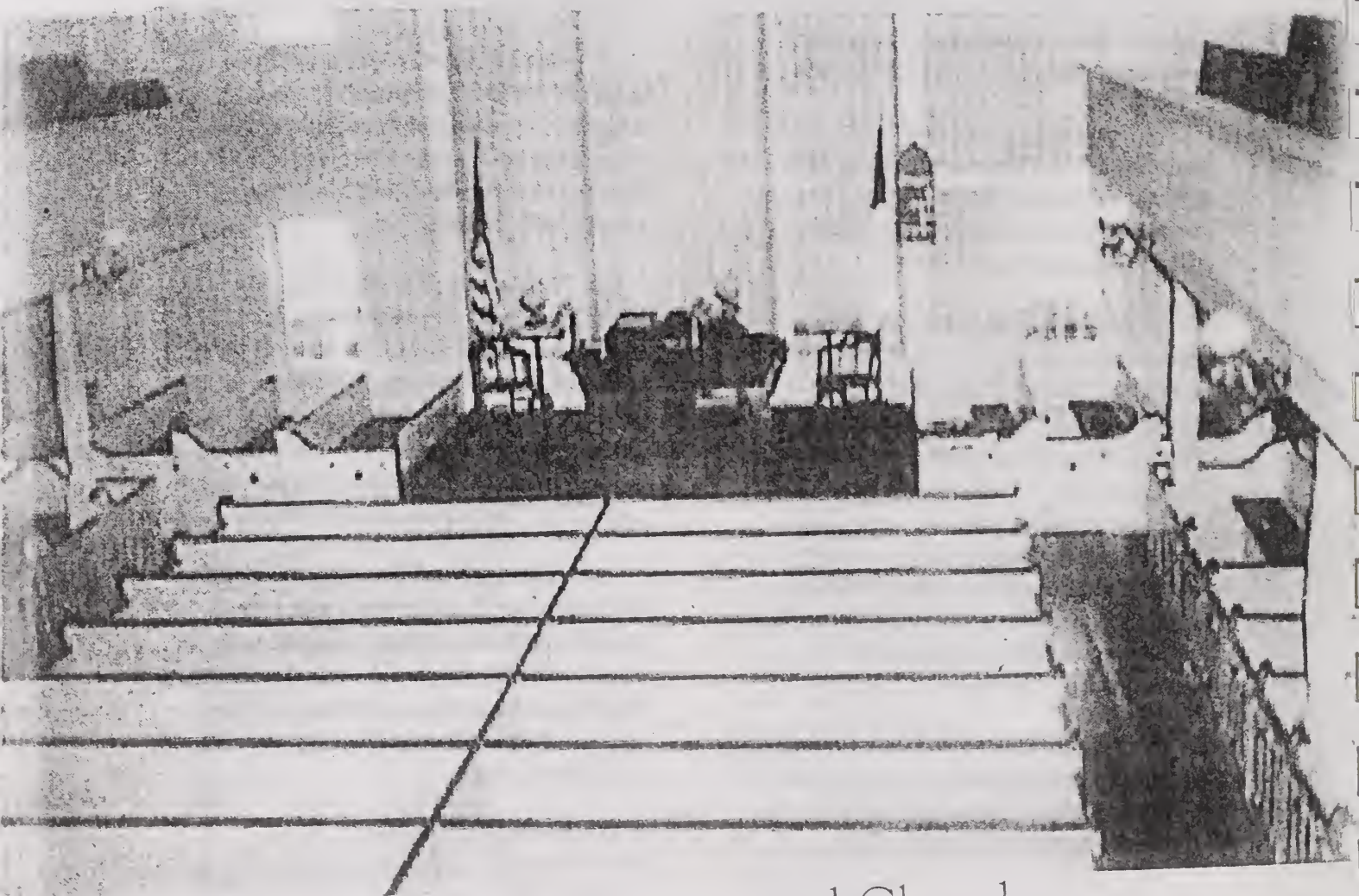
(Can it be true that there is an individual whose name is attached to the temperance pledge, and who has openly and virtually by this act, declared himself to be a friend to the cause that is one only by profession)

Better would it be for us never to vow, than to fail to perform them. Better never pledge ourselves to be the friends of temperance than to be guilty of its violation.

But laying aside all objections, does not our duty to ourselves, to our fellows, to our country and the world demand that we unite ourselves with the notaries of temperance and join our efforts with theirs.

The cause of temperance is a glorified cause. It was founded in benevolence and mercy; thousands have already become the happy subjects of its saving influence; and thousands yet unborn will doubtless have occasion to rejoice that it was ever put into the hearts of men to found such an institution.

Let us therefore use our exertions in its favor and never cease our efforts, until its influence shall be felt all over the world - that it may be like the percussion (*sic*) upon the centre of the gentle lake, whose undulations are checked only by the distant shore.



Truro Congregational Church
Interior

Anna G. Lombard

A. G. Lombard

Wm. G. Lombard
July 16... 1887

A. G. Lombard

A. G. Lombard

The contents of this booklet are intimate and precious. The cover is dated August, 1839, two months before she married Joshua Davis.

Quite possibly the essays were writing exercises assigned to her students; or they could have been a collection of thoughts to tuck away and read from time to time.

One poem, entitled "the Pleasures of Friendship", is signed "Anna G. Davis", so she wrote in her book at least once after her marriage.

Inside the back cover are folded drafts of the essays, poems by her friend/cousin Mary Ayres, and the poem "Anna's Picture" clipped from a newspaper. I'd like to think Joshua saw the poem, cut it out, and sent it to his intended. The Anna of the poem may have described "his Anna" to a tee, except that "his darling" had not "left" him.

Among the family photographs are many of Joshua and very few of Anna. The photo opposite the Anna poem is older than our Anna in 1839, but I think she looks pretty and sweet.

I felt like a big snoop reading these private thoughts. On the other hand, the "statute of limitations" has probably expired, and it gives us an insight into the girl Joshua fell in love with.

I think it is safe to say that Joshua was not the only one in the family blessed with intelligence and character.

To Anna

All thy days with peace be crowned,
None but friends be found around,
Naught of grief or care appear.
All thy hopes be prospered here.

God, the good, who all dost see,
Richly pour his grace o'er thee,
On thy path his blessings shed;
Strong in his own strength be led,
Safe to him who is our head.

Death may on thy loved ones fall
All earth's pleasures fade or pall,
Vain will then earth's comforts be
In the heavens such rest for thee
Safe in God, -- All sorrows flee.

Mary N. Ayres



Mary Ayres

Remember Me

1. I bring no claim of rarest worth,
 No coral from the deep sea cave,
No gem long hid within the earth,
 To shine where now those tresses wave;
A gift more precious for is mine
 Than sparkling gem from earth or sea,
This treasury of thoughts - 'tis thine;
 The boon it asks - "Remember me."

2. I may not here usurp the page
 To count the breath of fleeting fame;
Enough for me in after age,
 If in the memory lives my name.
In other years or distant climes,
 Whate'er my future fate may be,
A spell to call back by-gone times,
 Still dwelleth here, - "Remember me."

3. "Remember me!" - how few - how short,
 Those touching words - that little spell;
What thoughts uprise - what visions throng
 In wakened fancy's holiest cell!
They tell of many a change to come;
 May every change bring joy to thee!
In pleasure's light, or sorrow's gloom, -
 In weal - in wo - "Remember me."

Mary N. Ayres
Truro, July 13th, 1841

^{my}
Friendship
memento

If there is aught on earth calculated to cheer the mind, and elevate the feelings; it is the charms which friendship yields. How many and how pleasing are its associations. It is that which gives to home its endearments, and renders it so pleasing and desirable an asylum: it is one of the strongest and most endearing ties of earth; and in fine it is whatever is calculated to render life happy, and earth a delightful abode. Who has not felt emotions of the most pleasing kind, and such as are derived from no other source; while in the circle of friends, made dear by the ties which nature has formed; and when deprived of their society, with what pleasure, do we contemplate the scenes that are past, and revert to the hours spent in their presence. And is this separation a final one, how sacred their memory, and how highly do we prize any little memento calculated to call them to remembrance. To this purpose, would I appropriate Three, little Books; go, and have thy pages filled with the names, and sentiments of those the remembrance of whom will ever prove a source of satisfaction. That when in years far distant, when thy unsoiled leaves shall show the effects of time; and the youthful brow of thy owner if spared, shall bear the marks of age; that then thou mayest call to my remembrance the scenes that are past, and the associates of my youthful days.

A... S. F.....

^{my}
Iruro July 16... 1837

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To this purpose, would I appropriate Thee, little Book; go and have thy pages filled with the names and sentiments of those the remembrances of whom will ever prove a source of satisfaction, that when in years far distant, when thy unsoiled leaves shall show the effects of time, and the youthful brow of thy owner if spared, shall bear the marks of age; that then thou mayest call to my remembrance the scenes that are past, and the associates of my youthful days.

A... G. L.....

Truro July 16...1837

Choice of Friends

Extreme cautiousness should be exercised, in the choice of friends. We should, or ought to be, assured that a person is really worthy of our esteem and fervent love, before we extend the hand of disinterested friendship. We should have but few intimate friends, and those should be of such a character, as to enable us to call them friends: for are those persons deserving the name of friends, in whom we cannot rely? in whom we cannot place the fullest confidence? in whom we cannot entrust the very secrets of our hearts? surely not, for they who cannot keep a secret can never be a true friend to our interests. Best friends are few, and we should prize them more highly, than all the wealth that India can bestow. Friendship is a tender plant which will not bear to be used by the rough hand of jealousy, avarice, and envy; but it shrinks from their touch with the utmost aversion.

True friendship is a gift that grows and will never fade, it stands firmly in adversity and prosperity, in sorrow and gladness, and which only fails, when friends cease to live, or cease to be virtuous.

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A suspicious temper

A suspicious temper is a continual source of grief to its possessor. It renders not only ourselves unhappy; but its influence extends to those with whom we continually, and daily associate: and much time is spent in unpleasant and unprofitable conversation; that might be much more agreeably and profitably employed. And it has a tendency to destroy many enjoyments that would otherwise result from conversing with our friends.

If we are suspicious of our friends, it will lead us to accuse them not unfrequently of things, which they are not guilty: and to be suspected or accused wrongfully of indifference by those towards whom we entertain thoughts, but feelings prompted by pure affections, wounds the feelings; and leads us to suspect those, by whom we are suspected.

We cannot expect to find a friend; but what find a friend in us: neither can we expect to gain and retain the confidence of those towards whom we are ever entertaining feelings of suspicion. We should therefore endeavour by every means in our power to overcome and correct every thing that has the appearance of suspicion; and by laboring hard to do so, we shall be enabled to overcome all the difficulties which may be justly rewarded for our labour.

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The improvement of the mind

The mind is the standard of the man

It is the mind that makes man so far superior, and which raises him so far above all other animated nature. How important it is, then, that we should endeavour by every means in our power to improve the mind to the best advantage, and labour hard to store it with useful knowledge, such knowledge as will add richness to the mind, and render it useful and agreeable in society; and this we can do in many ways if we are disposed to do so.

Great advantages are to be derived from study and reading and by meditating on what we read, and also by associating with those wiser than ourselves.

By storing the mind with useful knowledge we gain something that is of infinite use, not only to ourselves, but that which will render us useful to others.

The improvement of the mind conduces greatly to improve the manners; it enables us to converse with ease with any person on any subject; and to move in any society whatever, without that embarrassment which might otherwise attend us. Yet, notwithstanding the great advantages to be derived from the improvement of the mind, how ^{many} there are that almost wholly neglect it; and there are some that seem almost to forget that they have any mind at all to improve, and thus grow up in ignorance and folly.

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Dress

Every age has some peculiar mode of dress, and every succeeding age appear to be more and more extravagant in their manner of dress. The ladies some fifty or sixty years ago thought themselves becomingly attired in their short dresses and checked aprons, and if they were mistress of one calico dress, they were satisfied, and thought they possessed an abundance. But what a contrast compared with the present day: now there is every variety of rich and elegant clothing calculated to charm the eye and please the taste, but such a variety has a tendency to produce extravagance for many dress extravagantly that cannot afford to, and even deprive themselves of many necessities of life, that they may appear in a dress which they think is beautiful.

All extravagance in dress should be avoided, and every one ought to know or should know, the just medium between parsimony and extravagance, and between vanity and a desire to dress appropriately to their station.

Indecencies of dress usually take their origin in indelicacy of mind; and if they do not originate in it, they infallibly produce it. No one looks so well as they, whose dress is simple yet strictly decent. Neatness is a prominent quality in a female, and in nothing is it more observable than in her dress, a neat dress neatly put on is more elegant than the most gaudy profusion of ill assorted splendour.

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Various are the changes produced by the revolution of time. Wherever we extend our observation over the works of nature, or of art, we discover marks of alteration and change. We witness striking changes in nature daily. The earth fitted for the abode of man is subject to various revolutions, causing the alternate succession of day and night, and to the succession of day and night is added that of the seasons with all their pleasing variety.

Winter with all its severity is followed by the beauties of spring; summer returns with all its fertility; and again gives place to autumn with its fruits and loaded fields. These are pleasing changes, but there are changes which we cannot contemplate but with reluctance. every thing external is hastening to change and dissolution.

And we ourselves are gliding insensibly down the current of time; year after year steals away and almost before we are conscious of it, old age is at hand. many of the associates of our early years who joined in our juvenile sports have long since been silenced by death.

Various are the changes produced by the revolution of time. Wherever we extend our observation over the works of nature, or of art, we discover marks of alteration and change. We witness striking changes in nature daily. The earth fitted for the abode of man is subject to various revolutions causing the alternate succession of day and night, and to the succession of day and night is added that of the seasons with all their pleasing variety.

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Conversation

To be able to converse with ease, and to please and instruct those with whom we converse is quite an accomplishment.

When in company, time should not be wasted in trifling and vain conversation, which will neither profit ourselves nor others. But the conversation as far as possible should be directed to some profitable subject which may instruct as well as entertain. And if the conversation becomes dull or insipid, it would be advisable to read, and converse on what is read.

When in company we should be very cautious, lest we expose our ignorance by talking too much, or by conversing on subjects with which we are wholly unacquainted; it would be much better to say nothing, and gain information from the conversation of others, than thus to betray our ignorance, and make sport for others which is often the case.

If we would avoid such embarrassments, we must labor hard to acquire such a manner of conversation as will enable us to move in any society, and converse with any person, and such as will render our conversation pleasant and instructive: and in order to do this, all manner of affectation should be avoided for we cannot be agreeable in society unless we appear perfectly easy and natural in our manners.

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Friendship

There is nothing on earth which is so well calculated to render life delightful and happy as the charms which friendship affords. Its associations are many and pleasing. It is one of the strongest and most tender ties of earth. It is that which renders home so pleasant and desirable; and that which adds beauty to every thing around us.

Without friends how miserable how neglected we should be: then should we become destitute of every earthly comfort of every thing worth living for. Without friends what are riches what is gold: gold cannot buy friendship; the thought is absurd is hopeless, love and love only is the loan for love.

Much depends upon the choice of friends: true friends are few: and before choosing a friend we should endeavour to know whether they are really worthy or not. We should pause before we choose, once joined ought till death.

When we have gained the affections of our friends that is not all to be done, but we should be anxious, and use every endeavour to retain them, by being open and free in our manners and with confidence to pour into the bosom of our friends our sorrows as well as joys.

On the other hand we may entirely destroy it by want of confidence, and by always suspiciouning them without any real cause: this often produces a bad effect and friends are thus made enemies.

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Contentment

A contented mind is a continual feast to its possessor. It produces happiness by banishing the desire of riches, and by being contented in the possession of little. It extinguishes all ingratitude towards that being, who has allotted each one, their own part to act in this world; and who has placed us in such situations as are really best for us.

We should therefore learn to be contented in any situation which we may be placed, and try to be thankful for what we have if it is but little, and think how much more unhappy we might be than what we really are. Let us visit the abode of poverty and sickness, and contrast our own situation with that of many others, who are more unhappy than ourselves. If we meet with misfortunes we should think that they might have been worse, and should bear our trials with patience and resignation. We may possess wealth we may be surrounded by friends, and with every thing calculated to render life happy and agreeable, but with all these, unless we possess a contented mind, we can never be really happy. But if we possess a contented mind and place firm reliance in superior power for support and assistance, though we may be surrounded by poverty and sickness and by the many trials to which we are subjected in this world, yet we may be contented and even happy.

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~~The~~ Pleasures of Friendship

If there is anguish on earth can cheer the heart
When melancholy - or it reigns;
If there is anguish that can a balm impart
That's followed not by keener pains -
It is the silent meditative hours

When memory recalls the past
And tells of friendships neverceasing power
Although fleeting time has sped so fast.
Should years of care and sorrow ever destroy
The present's quiet of mind
Oh may thou then some soft consoling joy
In these unpolished verses find.
Oft when this book thou turnest through
And valued names thou there deservest.

Should mine by wayward chance be brought to view
Let it not pass unheeded by.
But yet there is a purer source of joy,
A sweeter balm for the mind
His humble holy love without alloy
His that which words have never defined.

Anna L. Davis

The Pleasures of Friendship

If there is aught on earth can cheer the heart
When melancholy o'er it reigns
If there is aught that can a balm impart
That's followed not by keener pains.

It is the silent meditative hours
When memory recalls the past
And tells of friendship's neverceasing power
Though fleeting time has sped so fast.

Should years of care and sorrow e'er destroy
The present gaiety of mind
Oh may thou then some soft consoling joy
In these unpolished verses find.

Oft when this book thou turnest through
And valued names thou there decry
Should mine by wayward chance be brought to view
Let it not pass unheeded by.

But yet there is a purer source of joy,
A sweeter balsam for the mind
Tis humble holy love without alloy
Tis that which words have ne'er defined.

Anna G. Davis



Anna Gross Lombard Davis

ANNA'S PICTURE

“Tis but a pencil sketch, yet lovely still,
And true as lovely! the rich mouth is there,
The simple parting of the sun-brown hair,
The large and lustrous eyes, all eloquent,
With their unchildlike, earnest look of thought,
And the transparent fairness of the forehead!
It is all Anna, save the faint rose shade,
That trembles on her cheek, but, in her lips,
Deepens to crimson, and the tinge of gold,
Revelling like a sun beam ‘mid her hair,
While those eyes, which wear the self-same hue
Of glossy brown, it melts to tender smiles!
I would the picture could, those colors, wear;
For, in their contrast, half her beauty lies.
Her long silk lashes, drooping on her cheek,
Their elegant richness and the rose-tints warm,
Are brightened by each other’s loveliness.
I would this little sketch those colors wore;
But I’ve another portrait of the child,
Wrought by a hand more powerful and true,
A portrait, that will never fade, a hand,
Whose angel-skill is perfect and undying!
There the brown hair, on blue-veined temples, rests,
Just as it did on Anna’s; the sweet lips
Are as like hers, as her are like a rosebud!
And the clear beaming eyes, the color wear,
With which her own are radiant. It is true;
For, long ago, before our darling left us,
Love drew her picture, in my ‘heart of hearts,’
And *Memory* preserves it beautiful!

[Token for 1836]

FLORENCE

The Winter Flower

Hail, and farewell, thou lovely guest.
I may not woo thy stay.
The hues that paint thy glowing dress
 Are fading fast away.
Like the retiring tints that die
At evening in the western sky,
 And melt in misty gray.

It was but now thy radiant smile
 Broke through the seasons gloom
As, bending I inhaled a while
 Thy breathing of perfume;
And traced on every silken leaf
A tale of summer sweet and brief
 And sudden as thy doom.

Alas! on thy forsaken stem
 My heart shall long recline
And mourn the transitory gem,
 And make the story mine;
So on my joyless winter hour
Has oped in some fair and fragrant flower
 With smiles as soft as thine.

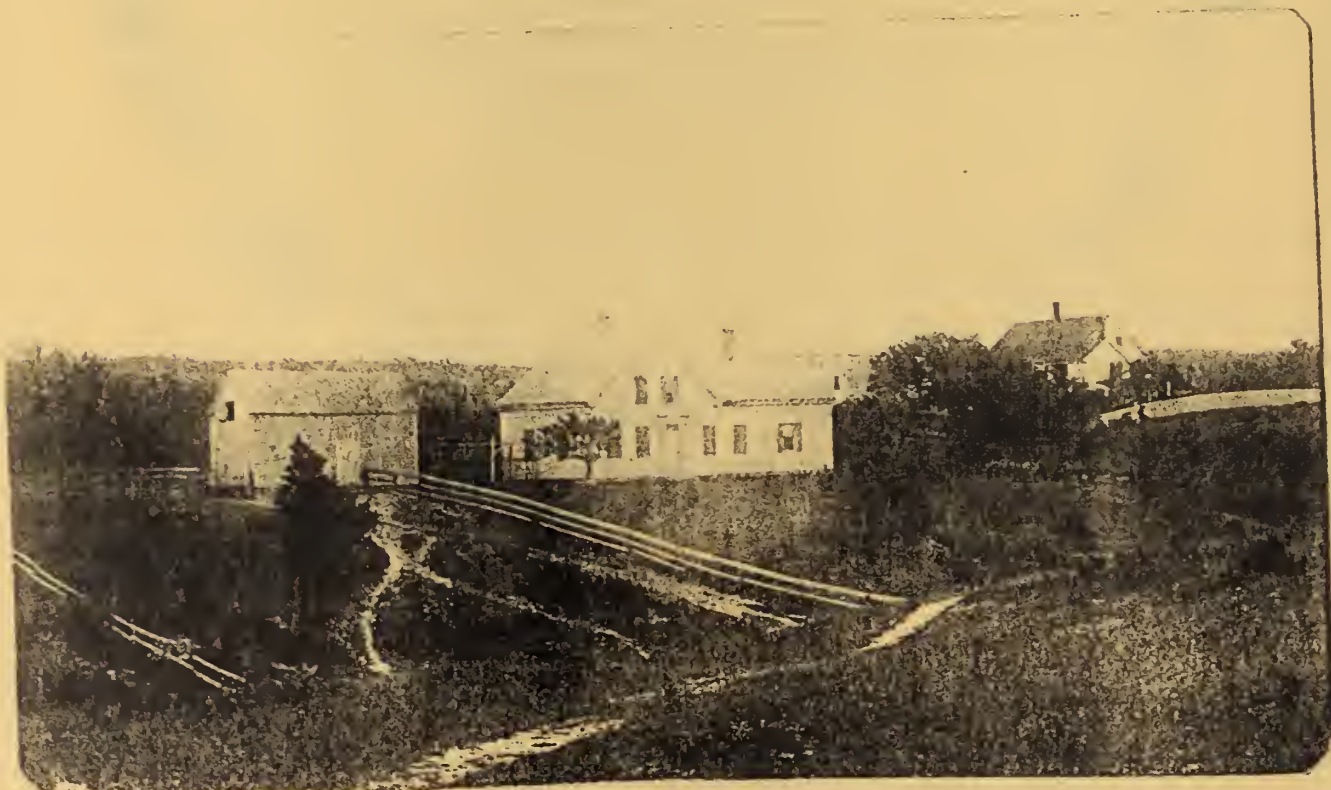
IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES

1839 - 1854

IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES



Two views of the Davis home in Truro, Cape Cod



HALCYON DAYS

Joshua and Anna were married in October of 1839, "a charming autumnal day", and boarded with his parents Ebenezer and Azubah Davis until June, 1844 when Ebenezer deeded Joshua half of his house. Joshua enlarged it and made improvements.

By the time their fifth child was born, that home became too "strait." They built their own house and moved in September 1, 1851.

It was next to an oak forest and had a view of Massachusetts Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Flowers, shrubs and fruit trees flourished.

It was convenient to his school, church and post-office, and they were surrounded by a large number of friends.

In the winter of 1839-40, Capt. Benjamin Dyer, Capt. Ebenezer Davis, Dr. Nathaniel J. Knight and others formed an association for the construction of Truro Academy.

The Honorable Horace Mann dedicated the new building, and its first term opened August 31, 1840. The school continued without interruption, 47 weeks each year until April, 1854. These were the brightest years of Joshua's life. "My health was good, my spirits buoyant, my employment congenial, my labors appreciated, and the world looked bright."

This was Truro's most prosperous period; citizens were profitably employed and in comfortable circumstances. Schools were in a flourishing condition, a public library was formed and well patronized, and a lyceum was organized and well sustained.

"It was a most delightful community to dwell in."

Being ambitious, Joshua devoted his leisure time to study. His profession compelled him to take a leading part in all moral, educational, and benevolent subjects, all of which required time and attention.

He gave frequent public addresses and orations. Politics consumed his time and thought, and for 12 years he superintended the Sabbath School.

For several years, three times a day, he collected and recorded meteorological data and submitted quarterly reports.

For exercise and recreation Joshua cultivated his garden and orchard, cared for his domestic animals and made improvements around his house.

Joshua and Anna collected much about their home much to make it desirable and very dear to them.

THE TIDE TURNED

"Life is an alternation of joy and sadness...light and shade...sometimes blended...other times in bold contrast."

The summer of 1851 was a period of anxiety - care and labor of the academy, providing materials for and superintending the building of his house, and a long period of family illness.

In 1854 a final attempt was made to deepen Truro's harbor, as its mackerel fishing industry began to demand larger vessels. However, old currents refused to be coerced and it seemed to be the law of nature for sandy harbors to fill up.

The final blow from which the town never recovered was the breaking up of the Union Company's store. This was an unincorporated company, each shareholder being responsible for the obligations to the full amount, or to his last dollar, a fact they all understood better in the end.

The superintendent, Mr. Elkanah Paine 2d, was a very agreeable, enterprising, and popular man. The cooperation of the stockholders gave it almost unbound influence in the community. A large and apparently flourishing business was carried on for many years.

The stockholders were satisfied without investigation, so long as ten per cent, per annum was paid. The company bought and sold, and borrowed and loaned, but in the day of reckoning it was found hopelessly in debt, and was placed in the court of equity. The responsible shareholders were obliged to pay a sum fully equal to the amount of their paid-up stock, to free themselves from the debts.

"By the failure of E. Paine and Co., I lost \$650."

In the spring of 1854, Joshua's failing health compelled him to give up the academy and teaching altogether. He had to begin again as a novice in an untried occupation. To sever Truro connections of nearly 40 years caused severe mental conflict.

In May of 1854, Joshua left home to seek work in Boston. Rev. Edward Noble recommended him to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (the "Missionary Rooms") and he was hired as assistant to the treasurer at a small salary.

In August he was elected secretary of the United States Insurance company at \$1200 per year, thanks to the influence of his wife's cousin Israel Lombard, Truro native and prominent Boston merchant, and his brother Ebenezer, a marine insurance inspector.

The insurance company went out of business in late autumn 1862 due to hazardous marine risks during the Civil War when Rebel ships harassed and reduced northern commerce. Severance pay of \$1000 was given to Joshua, and he went into the produce business with Nathaniel Dyer (Truro native) at No. 5 Blackstone St., Boston in April, 1863. He invested \$1850 in the business.

Joshua and Anna's first Somerville house was at Webster and Cutter Sts. They moved from there to Broadway and Mt. Vernon St., and in the spring of 1855 he built his house at 65 Myrtle St. The family moved in on June 30.

In 1855, Joshua sold his property in Truro.

House to Capt. Dyer	\$900
Woodland to Mr. Peterson	140
Meadow to Elkanah Paine	80
Nook, Academy, Pew to	<u>120</u>
brother Solomon	\$1240

The cost of the house and land was \$1000.

TRURO, JUNE 6TH 1854

(Original letter sent Alice Dyar Russell 1939)

Dear Father

I was very glad to hear from you. I heard that you got a situation in a Missionary room and that you liked it very much do you know wether there is any prospect of you keeping it Anna said that she was a going to write the next time. We are going down to Grandmother Petersons week after next. Grand mother wanted us to come next week but we could not get redy to go I should like to see you very much indeed it looks very green around the house now and the pig grows very fast the hens do not lay many eggs there is one hen that lays a small egg evry day about as large as a blacks as the boys call it there minds are all on birds eggs and birds nests they call them Blacks and Robs and Chippys the mosquitoes are very thick here are they to Boston they serve the Baby very bad they eat her almost up Write to me as soon as you can and let me know just how you are but I must bring my letter to its close for it is almost 9 o'clock in the evening and I must go to bed

from your affectionate

Daughter Mary E. Davis

Among the letters of Joshua and Anna Davis is this one written by Joshua to his two sons, Solomon, not yet nine years old, and Joshua about six and one-half.

Somerville, June 16, 1854

Dear Boys,

I thought it would please you to have a letter from me, though you cannot read it yourselves. If you are good boys and attentive to your books, you will soon be able both to read and to write letters.

I hope you are both very good boys and very obedient to your mother. It will grieve me very much to hear that you are not.

I suppose that you take good care of everything about home now that I am away. I suppose you keep mother well supplied with kindling materials & the pig with leaves, & see that the cow has water when she comes home with her nice milk for you at night. I hope you are very kind to each other & to your sisters, and do all you can to please grandfather and grandmother. I see a great many boys like you, some of them appear to be very good boys; but some of them are very naughty boys & speak wicked words & then I think I hope my little boys will not be like them.

I see a great many things every day that I suppose would be interesting to you. A few days ago there passed by the window where I stand to write, a company of one hundred men, whom they call the City Lancers. They were dressed very gaily & carried in their hands a staff about eight feet long with a lance and a little red flag upon the end of it. They were mounted upon fine horses which were also dressed very prettily; as they went prancing by they made a very fine appearance and I thought how I should like for my children to see them.

Sometimes there are very fine bands of music that pass by, and every day there are hundreds of beautiful horses & carriages, & gentlemen & ladies on horseback. Frequently as I pass to and from the office the horses & carriages are so thick that it is very difficult to cross the street.

As I pass over Charlestown bridge I have a fine view of the ships in the harbor on one side, and the cars as they pass into the city on the other. I often think as I pass along morning & evening how I should like to have one of my little boys to accompany me.

You can get Anna or Mary to write a letter to me for you & if I can hear that you are good boys I will write to you again soon.

Your affectionate father,

J. H. Davis

CORRESPONDENCE 1854

Letters from Joshua to his wife in the summer of 1854 give details in regard to his search for a position and to the conditions of his employment.

June 11, Somerville

"I am writing in the Missionary Rooms, Pemberton Square. The situation and employment are very congenial to me and I think I shall be well adapted to the place after I have had some experience.

"The location is pleasant and very quiet. While in the office, which is very neat and airy, I hear nothing but the most respectful language, and witness none but the most respectful deportment.

"I go to the office at 8 in the morning and leave about 6 in the evening....."

July 7

"I am away from the office about 1/2 hour at noon."

He boards with his brother Ebenezer in East Somerville a distance of about three miles from down town Boston and usually walks to and from his work.

"I am getting to be one of the greatest walkers going. I think nothing of walking to Boston & back again, when the weather is good, indeed I feel less tired when I get home at night than I do when I first leave the office."

July 30

"I stand to write most of the time, and sometimes get very weary indeed: but this is a wearisome world. I suppose it is best that it is so, otherwise we would become too much wedded to it."

In order to earn extra money (His salary was only \$800 a year) he copied sermons, twelve in all, during his "leisure moments."

July 23

"I get \$30 for the extra labor & when I thought how many comforts that sum would furnish to my family, I have been cheered on during every hour."

Up to the middle of June he seems to have received no wages and writes inquiring how his wife is "making out for money."

June 17

"If you get short, I think you had better try to collect some of the school bills. I do not know when I shall receive any money for my services here. I presume our credit is good for anything you want to the stores. When I receive any money, I will forward some to you."

June 22

"I think you had better send the children to Mr. Whorf or anywhere else where money is due. I have richly earned all the money that is due and you need not be ashamed to send for it."

July 30

As for himself, "...have made out to rub along for money & have never been entirely without. I am obliged to have some money, as I buy my dinner in Boston and pay for them every day and when I walk there is toll to pay and since the weather has been so warm I have hardly felt able to walk all the time, so I have had my tickets to pay for but my sermon money has enabled me to buy what clothes I needed and to pay my incidental expenses,..."

By this time (July 30) he has apparently received some money, although he waits until someone is "going down" and then in August sends his wife \$65 by his Cousin Benjamin. He has previously however sent some presents by the packet.

"I sent some presents by the packet to all my babies but two; and one of them is so old and other so young that I really did not know what would please them. Perhaps the girls bonnets may look rather small to you but they wear very small bonnets now. I hope they suit.

"I thought that I would buy the boys some nice thin hats to wear to meeting. But as the season is so far

advanced I thought it best to buy caps which will be suitable for warm weather or cold."

On the same date (July 30) his wife acknowledges the gifts.

"We are all very much pleased with the nice presents you sent us. I think the bonnets and caps both are very pretty indeed. They came very unexpectedly but were very acceptable.

"I think the boys needed summer caps very much. There had been much conjecture what the things might be that you were going to send but I don't think they once thought of having anything so nice.

"We have just finished some straw hats for the boys the last week which we have been making. Their old hats came all to pieces, so I got some straw and the girls plaited them and I sewed them and don't you know what pretty hats they are. The boys seemed better pleased with them than if they had been bought.

"Mr. Paine sent the things up Saturday morning. Many thanks to you for so promptly and kindly caring for us.

"The beef and bread came unexpectedly but I was very glad of them, especially the bread as we have had only two pounds this summer. We have flour enough to last a week or more. When you went away I thought our flour would last all summer but we have lived principally upon that and have not had much to save it.

"The girls have gone after some whortleberries this afternoon. We are going to try to get enough to send you some but I hear the packet is going tomorrow morning. If so I am afraid we shall not be able to send any.....the children are very anxious to get some to send."

Anna's letters tell much of how she and children miss him, of how cunning "little Sarah" is, of how Emily is beginning to talk plainly, of how the pig prospers under Anna's care, of how Solomon thinks "there will be great rejoicing when father comes home." She speaks in one letter of trying to get a shirt off to him.

"Had the packet waited but one tide longer, I should have had one to send."

June 10

"I got Mother Davis to make your night shirts and Mother Peterson has two bosom shirts making. I had enough linnen for them."

When in August Joshua receives his appointment as Clerk in the office of the U. S. Insurance Co. at \$1200 a year, he feels justified in hiring a house and sending for his family.

The house is not far from his brother Ebenezer and his brother-in-law Isaac Gross, near the school and the church they "are about building."

August 12

"The house is new & having never been occupied it is clean and in fine order. It has two square rooms and a small kitchen on the lower floor and two square rooms and a small bedroom in the chamber. I think it will make very comfortable quarters for us but you must not expect to find all the room & conveniences in it which you will leave in our nice comfortable house in Truro.

"I will not be able to leave to go home but I want you to secure the assistance of Hannah Rich, and perhaps Mother Peterson will be able to render you some assistance and I will try to get Solomon or Thomas to do the heavy work.

"My plan is to furnish the parlor immediately, and just as soon as you can get ready, I shall move our things which I think best to do, one week before you come with the children; that will give me time to get the house in living order before you come, and it will give you an opportunity to visit the folks around which you want to do before you come away.

"I think it will not be best to move our large table or my writing table & our bedstead and the crib-bed. Three beds are as many as we shall have room for & as many as we shall want to occupy at present.....

"The feather beds you can have packed in flour barrels & the dishes in the wash tubs, then you will have that large chest to pack your clothes in & I will send my trunk down in the packet.

"We shall want to move the bureau, the chairs, the cross-legged table and the table we eat off of & the light stands. The mattresses can be rolled so as to occupy the least possible room, and the straw can be given to the pig."

On August 16th Anna replies:

"It would seem from what I hear 'that your dish is not always bottom up when it rains porridge', and I must confess that I was very much surprised and not a little pleased in reading the contents of your letter.....

"I can hardly realize that we are going to break up here and leave all so soon. There are some unpleasant things about it but still where your home is there I want my home to be and I feel willing to put up with any inconvenience for the sake of all living together again.

"I suppose you do feel very impatient for us to come, and I feel as much in a hurry to get there, but I do not think it will be possible for me to get ready to send up the things until the time after the next packet goes which will be week after next.....

"I should be very glad if we could come sooner but Hannah is out nursing and cannot come to assist me any until the first of week after next and I have considerable work that it seems important to have done before we come...

"If you can, I should like for you to get me come kind of a dress that will be suitable to wear the first of the fall

and send down so that I can get it made before I come as I shall need it after I get there. You need not get anything very nice as I shall have to wear it quite common.....Shall I send both clocks?..."

A letter from Joshua on August 19th reports progress.

"...I have finished the parlor. Maria and Betsey have kindly volunteered to make the carpet. The shape of our room at home is so different from the sitting room in the house I have hired, that I have thought it best to leave the canvas where it is & have bought some for the room here.

"As we shall have but the two sleeping rooms it will be necessary to put two beds in one of them, and I thought two large beds would fill it up too much. The small bed will answer for the boys to sleep in a year or two should they live.

"I have bought a sofa that can be let down and used for a bed in case of any of our friends should come to spend the night with us.

"In case we are sick and obliged to hire a girl, I can get a narrow bed to put in the small sleeping room.....

"My great chair you may leave behind. You will want your clothes horse. What pork you have left can be put in one of those large firkins. The pork barrel you may leave. The flour barrel now partly out you may have filled up with meal and headed up and sent with the things. You may move one

oil canister & give the other to mother....If you can sell our large lamps lighthouses do so, for 25 cts less than they cost. Betsey is going to let me have her solar lamp!!! They use gas. If you cannot sell those lamps you had better leave them with mother.

"The cape corn you may leave; when the weather gets cool, I will get Solomon to get it ground and sent to me.

"The hens we will have moved. Ebenezer has a large hen house we can put them in, they will be very good to eat & we can not buy a very large fowl here for a dollar.

"If the potatoes are well grown, you can send half a bushel. If the pumpkins are grown send half a dozen.

"If there are fish enough to make it an object send them if but a small quantity give them to father."

August 25th

".....I wish to have the bag containing the grass seed brought back.....If Mr. Jonathan Collins has any apples & pears to sell you may bring all he has to spare. He owes me more than I shall ever get."

Anna's last letter written August 27th reports

"We are getting along very well. Hannah has been with me almost a week and is coming again tomorrow. I think she will come with us as she has an errand to Melrose. I feel almost tired

out. I have so much on my mind it seems sometimes as if I must give up.

"I long to get there and get settled and feel as if I had some one to cast some of my burden upon. Mother Peterson cannot come with me. Aunt Sally is quite sick."

Evidently the day of departure was decided by the tide. When it "served" early, but not too early, in the morning, they would have all day for the sail across the Bay to Boston, which seems to have been the case on August 31st.

*Excerpt from letter to Joanna R. Davis
("Josie") from Joshua H. Davis dated
St. Paul, Minn. March 7, 1930*

"I remember a few things that happened before we moved from Truro but what I know about the Cape and my recollections of the people there are from visits there later. When we made the move to Somerville, the family and the household goods went at the same time by the packet, so we all spent the last night in Truro at Aunt Azubah's (Paine) and our first night in Somerville at Uncle Ebenezer's. Mr. Elkanah Paine was on hand with horse and carriage before daylight in the morning to take us to the wharf and it was after dark in the evening when we reached Boston. About all I remember of this event was that it was dark, the horse and carriage, glimpses of the water as we were sailing and the wharf at Boston in the dark, and father there to meet us. I learned afterward that the name of the packet was "Modene", Capt. John P. Lewis in command.

"Only one other packet trip do I remember having made, and my age at that time I do not know. It was in vacation time and the packet was the "E. Paine 2d" run by Capt. Joseph Hatch and Capt. Richard Atwood, the latter Aunt Sarah Peterson's father.

"Father put Solomon and me aboard late in the day and we arrived at Truro the next afternoon. About all I remember of the trip was "Nixie's Mate" in Boston Harbor, that we slept in berths in the cabin where a dust pan hung that rattled all night with the motion of the vessel, that there were two passengers (tourists) who were put ashore at beach

at Provincetown (probably Wood End) and that Grandfather Peterson met us with his dory and that he took us aboard that before the packet reached her wharf.

"How we travelled home after our visit at Truro I do not remember."

*Excerpt of a letter from Joshua Davis,
Jr. to his niece Helen Davis*

Spring Valley, Wis
June 14, 1937

Elkanah Paine who married Hannah Hinckley was the manager of the company store that father had an interest in that caused assessments to help wipe out the deficit.

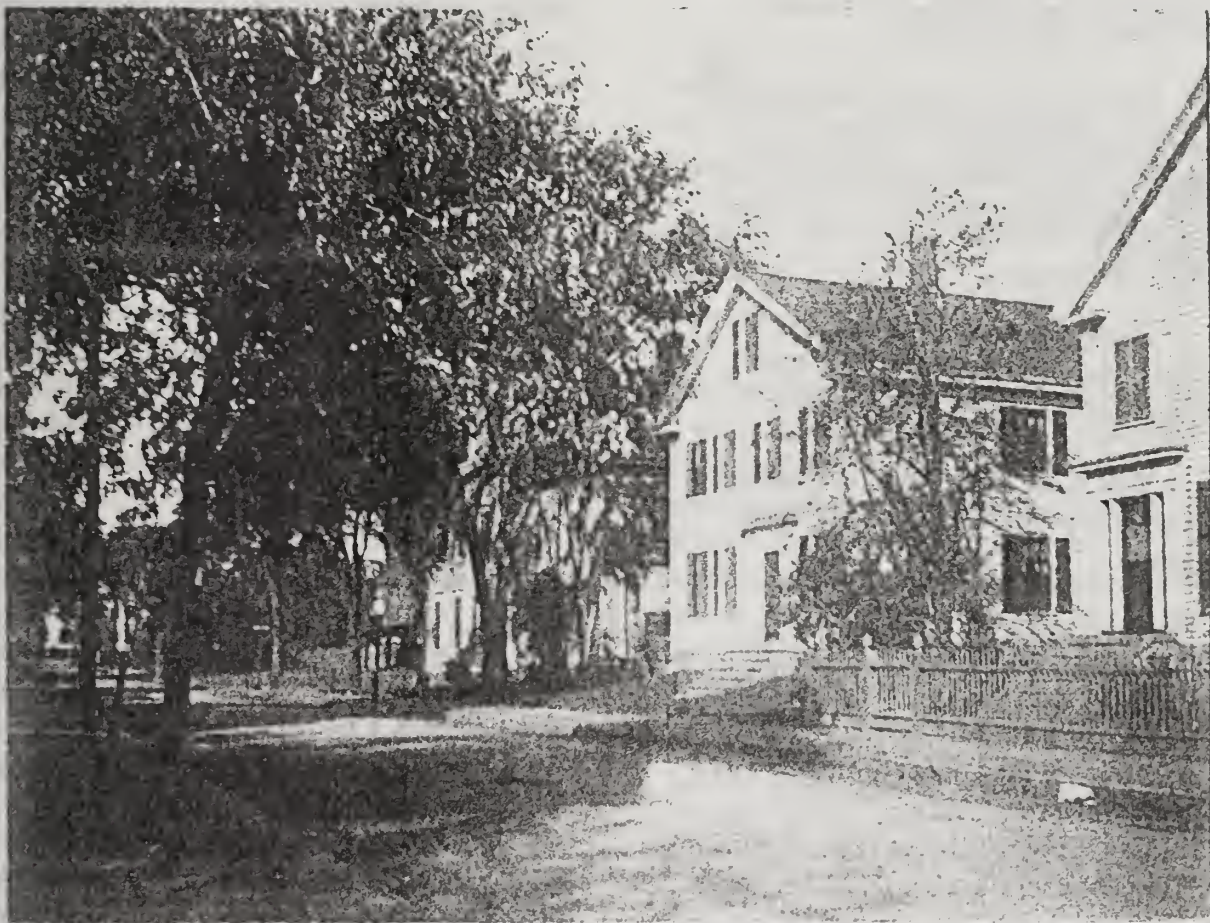
When he left Truro for Somerville, we spent the last night in Truro at Aunt Azubah's, and it was Elkanah who came before daylight with his horse and carriage to take us to the packet.

It was nearly evening when we arrived in Boston, where Father was waiting to take us to Somerville where we spent the first night at Uncle Ebenezer's.

Your father and I always went to church when we were at Truro in our school vacation. We sat in the pew that had been father's when we lived there and from which we could see the Wing pew at the preacher's right where Mercy, Hannah and Delia, Benjamin Hinckley's three sisters always sat, so I became very well acquainted (by sight) with them.

I believe they were there every Sunday and the horse and carriage that got them there were Elkanah's.

So you can see that Elkanah was a useful man in town even after his failure at the store.



**The Davis house on Myrtle Street
Somerville, Massachusetts**

NOTES

(Names in bold print appear in these letters.)

Family Structure

"The girls" were the oldest children, **Anna** and **Mary**. "The boys" were the next two children, **Solomon** and **Joshua**. Then came another pair of girls, **Emily** and **Sarah**. **Thomas** was the baby of the family and a child whose behavior did not seem to be exemplary all of the time.

Notice that Anna used diminutives for some of her children ("Annie" and "Tommy"), while Joshua always referred to them by their proper names ("Anna" and "Thomas").

These pairings of siblings (with Thomas being the odd child out) were companionships enduring a lifetime.

Which children went to Truro with Anna depended on their ages and school vacations.

Anna's Siblings

Aunt Sally, **Aunt Betsey** and Anna were Elizabeth Peterson's children by Thomas Lombard who died in 1819. At the time of these letters, **Elisha** was the only surviving Peterson half-sibling.

Aunt Sally was an asthma sufferer who died in 1871 at 57. She and her husband Thomas Kenney had two daughters. Mary Kenney was a frequent Somerville visitor. Elizabeth ("Libby") married Hiram Newcomb of Wellfleet.

Aunt Betsey seemed to be a flibbertigibbet. Anna never had a very high opinion of Betsey's first fiancé Sylvanus Collins back in the 1830's. Sylvanus died young as did their son Sylvanus, Jr.

Betsey's next husband was Mr. Cook, and they had a daughter Phoebe Annette, called Nettie. Betsey was widowed a second time and married another Mr. Cook for her third husband.

Betsey lived in Provincetown but seemed to flit around at her convenience and dropped in at Somerville now and then. Joshua humored her but was a little firm with his wife when he thought Betsey was taking advantage of Anna.

Anna's Parents

"Father" and "Grandfather" was **John Peterson**, **Elizabeth Gross Lombard Peterson**'s second husband. He seemed to be very fond of the Davis grandchildren. (Joshua's parents Ebenezer and Azubah Davis had been deceased since the mid 1850's.)

Joshua and Anna's correspondence does not even allude to Ruth Peterson (Anna's brother Thomas's widow) or her five children, even though I still think they were all living with her parents-in-law Elizabeth and John.

Joshua Davis Sr., as usual, ignores the existence of all the Petersons except for his mother-in-law Elizabeth whom, there is no doubt, he reveres.

Other Truro Relatives

Head O'Pamet is the area of Truro where **Aunt Dinah** and **Uncle Benjamin Dyer** lived. The Noble family also lived in that area. Dinah and Benjamin were particularly close to Joshua and Anna. Dinah was Joshua's oldest sister and she spent much time caring for him when he was

NOTES

a baby. Benjamin knew the value of an education and provided the means for Joshua's formal schooling.

Mr. Noble was the Congregational minister in Truro from 1850-1883. His wife was Dinah and Benjamin's oldest daughter Elizabeth.

The Dyers had three other daughters. **Dinah** was married to Leonard Lombard and **Azubah** married Edward Boardman. Catherine "**Kate**" was the youngest. Ebenezer "**Eben**" was the youngest son. Benjamin, Jr. died in Peru in 1868.

Aunt Anna was Elizabeth Peterson's sister married to David Lombard.

Josiah and **Susan, Margaret** and children, and **Sarah Ellen** ("**Ellie**") were Anna Davis's cousins. Elizabeth Peterson's other sister Sarah (Aunt Sally) married Lewis Lombard (David's brother). Their children were: Josiah who married Susan; Isaac who married Margaret Baker; John William Peterson who was married and living in Wisconsin; and Sarah Ellen ("**Ellie**"). At the time of these letters, Lewis Lombard was a widower, and his daughter apparently kept house for him besides teaching school.

Isaac and **Betsey Davis Gross** have a double connection to the Davises. Isaac was a brother to Elizabeth, Anna and Sarah Gross making him Anna Davis's uncle. Betsey was an older sister to Joshua (and younger sister of Dinah). By their marriage, they were both aunt and uncle to the Davises as well as sister- and brother-in-law to them. **Jaazaniah** was their son, and he was married to **Harriet**.

Other Observations

Mail Service: This appeared to be frequent, precise and reliable. They knew by when a

letter was mailed exactly when it would be received. Mail could be received more than once a day.

The Packet: The schedule of the packet sailing from Truro to Boston was arbitrary due to the tides and its capricious captain. The best-known of the Truro packets was the *Post-Boy* (pronounced "*Pizz-Bee*") whose captain was Zoheth Rich of Truro.

He was a true Cape Cod "character" who carried a chip from his wife's tombstone on each trip. The *Post-Boy* was famous for its elegantly appointed passenger area. Zoheth Rich's daughter Sarah married Ebenezer ("**Eben**") Dyer, and they had two daughters Emily and Mabel. This family visited the Davis home on Myrtle St. every year.

The Jubilee: Somerville was incorporated as a city in 1872, and the celebration may have had something to do with this. "General Grant" was actually "President Grant." He may have been in the Somerville/Boston area campaigning for his second term of office. Why Joshua called him "General" rather than "President" is unknown.

Final Thought

I delight in the love this family had for one another. I enjoy their "humanness" - temper tantrums, neglect of tasks, and barefoot children running wild in Truro.

I took particular glee in Joshua's dry wit and his capacity for teasing. His portrait hangs in my living room, and until now I thought him to be a rather stern fellow. Now each time I look at his picture his bright blue eyes twinkle at me. I think he's taken satisfaction that I've figured out what a happy life he had.

Boston June 20/60

My Dear Wife

I stopped over last evening until 7 o'clock hoping to get a letter; but was obliged to go home disappointed. But much to my surprise I found your letter in the box this morning.

The Pres. is out of town today & I am alone, so I will improve the opportunity to write you. I feel relieved to hear you have got to your journey's end in safety & that you & the children are well.

We are getting along finely at home. The girls are deserving of all praise. With two such house-keepers as I have, I ought not to complain.

I seemed very pleasant to us to get back into our own church again. It seemed to be the opinion of all that the gallery rather improves than injures the appearance of the house.

We had a meeting Monday evening for the sale of pews. I think they sold enough to nearly pay the expense of altering the house.

I almost decided that evening to exchange our pew for the Crazy pew, as it would give us two additional seats & the tax would be somewhat less than I now pay; but the children seemed to feel so bad about changing I concluded to hold on to the old pew. For when we run over, some of us can sit on the front seat with the old woman.

I have concluded to have our pew lined as it is a favorable time to have it

done, now they are lining others. It will cost \$3.50 but I think it will be economy to have it done, the varnish sticks so in warm weather.

Mrs. Mitchell buried her daughter last Sabbath. The S. S. concert was held in the evening. Address by Friend Tillinghast, a Quaker from New Bedford.

On the 18th Mary, Emily & the boys went to see the boat race & took dinner at Aunt Azubah's. Elizabeth came home with them & spent the night.

I went home at 2 o'clock & after supper Anna & I went by the horse cars to the extreme of Somerville. I had a very pleasant walk home over Spring & Central Hills.

Last evening the three girls went out to ride with Isaac & Betsey which they enjoyed very much.

This afternoon the boys have the promise of coming over to accompany me home; but the rain is now pouring down in torrents. I think they may be disappointed.

Emily's cough is nearly well, and we are all very well indeed.

Anna says that Ann gets along very well; she seems pleasant & does willingly whatever Anna wishes her to do.

Dea. Howard & I have been out one evening to make calls.

Aside from that I have not yet fulfilled any of my engagements entered into before you left. I think I shall have to defer some of them until you return, for I seem to be needed at home more than anywhere else.

Tell Mother, nothing would give me more pleasure than to go down & spend a week with you; but duty calls me here, & I always wish to put duty before pleasure.

You say your appetite improves. It is much as I expected. If a person has not an appetite at Mother's table, it is a hopeless case with him; he needn't expect to find one anywhere else.

We wouldn't mind if we could get strawberries without cream or even the cream without strawberries.

Kiss the children for me. I hardly know how to live without them. It seems as if more than half the house has gone. One week has already gone; & the remaining five will soon pass away.

If you have to come home alone, I think it will be as well for you to come by land. I think Thomas would enjoy it better. You can send your trunk by the packet & I can meet you at the depot & we can ride all the way home from there.

I think it will not be any more fatiguing that the other way, & you are not always sure of having so pleasant a passage as you had down.

I feel very lonesome without you but don't wish for you to hurry your visits. It is a great undertaking for you to get there & you cannot go very often, you may as well make your visit out now you are there.

I think the change will be beneficial to you; & if you can come home refreshed & with your health improved I shall not mind waiting.

I am impressed as I never was before with a sense of desolation of those homes when death enters, & where are seen the vacant places of loved ones who can never return.

You will get this Thursday evening. If you can put a letter in the Office Friday, eve'g or early Saturday morning I shall get it Saturday night.

I suppose you will go to Highland next week & shall wish to hear from you before you go.

Your Affectionate Husband

J. H. Davis

Truro June 22nd 1860

My Dear Husband,

I have just received your letter this evening. I supposed there was a letter for me last evening but I was to Mother's and there was no one going to the office, so I did not get it, but we came up to Dinah's to-night and I got it as we came along.

I have been stopping to Mother's this week and have not been any where else and have just come up here to make my visits.

The children did not get to bed till after nine and to sleep untill much as half past and such a fuss as there was with them you never see, it being a strange place I think made them rather home-sick.

But late as it was I felt as if I must write you a few lines to send in the morning to let you know how we are and how we are getting along, as I thought from what you wrote that you would be disappointed not to get a letter tomorrow evening.

We are all well and hearty. I wish you could look at Tommy and Sarah as they lie in bed side by side sweetly sleeping. They are enjoying themselves very much indeed but they don't seem to like to change beds.

I think to stop in this neighbourhood until the last of next week when I think to go back to Mother's and stay over the sabbath, and then the next Tuesday we think to go to the Highland and by that time the three weeks will have expired that I allowed for my visit.

So I think I shall have to lengthen out my visit one week longer when I think I shall be ready to come home. I feel kind of home-sick almost every night it seems so lonesome.

I long to see you all, but am very glad to hear that you are getting along so nicely at home. I want you to write as soon as you get this and I wish one of the girls would write also.

How are the boys? I should like to hear something from them. I hope they are very good boys.

Tell Emily I wish she could be here with us. Aunt Betsey thought it was Emily that was coming with me.

How do the girls get along about going to school? Do they take turns as they thought to when I left home?

We are invited to spend the afternoon at Mr. Noble's to-morrow and Mother is invited to spend next Tuesday with us at Dinah's.

As to coming home I shall come just which way you shall think best. I suppose it will not cost much more to come by land.

It is getting very late in the night, and I must be up early enough to get this to the office in the morning.

So I will conclude with much love to you all.

Your Affectionate Wife

Anna G. Davis

Somerville, June 22, 1860

Dear Mother,

We received your letter night before last and were glad to hear that you were so well. We went into our church last Sabbath and the galleries instead of hurting the looks of it makes it look better and instead of making it darker makes it lighter.

We had our Sabbath School concert in the evening when we had an address by Mr. Tillinghast a Quaker & he gave each of us a little book.

Father thought of taking the Hospital pew but the girls didn't like the idea so Father is going to get ours upholstered.

Day before Yesterday I went up to the High school to carry Anna her Umbrella and rubbers and as I was coming home it began to rain and I was wet through.

How is Thomas and Sarah? tell Thomas the kitten is well and growing fast and I think she will be sorry when you get back and tell him another chicken is dead and that the old hen has weaned them.

Give my love to all the folks both young and old.

How is Grandfather and Grandmother and all the folks? (and as good luck will have it) we are faring sumptuously every day.

Your Affectionate Son

Solomon Davis

Somerville June 22, 1860

Dear Mother,

Solomon left some room so I thought I would write a few lines to let you know how we are getting along in the cooking department. We have pretty good things now you are gone, and once in a while something extra.

Yesterday Ann boiled some potatoes and corned beef in which she put some dumplings which came out as heavy as a brick and as black as a coal. then she took some of the water which she boiled the meat in And then she took some butter and thickning and stirred it with some of the water. And made some gravy.

Last night we had a box of strawberries the first that we have had this year. Mrs. Conant sent us in two quarts of milk last night. Mrs. Cran was at our house to night. I don't know who will come next.

Your affectionate son
J. H. Davis

*(Note added from the boys' father,
Joshua H. Davis, Sr., to his wife)*

You will see from Joshua's letter that we occasionally have a fancy dish, not described in the "Cook Book." But then "Variety is the spice of life."

Truro June 28, 1860

My Dear Husband,

I was very glad to hear from home by the children, but felt quite disappointed that you did not write too but shall expect a good long letter when you receive this if not before.

I am very much pleased to hear that you are all getting along so well at home without me and especially that you fare so well.

Tell Solomon I think the fare must be pretty good for him to be so well pleased with it.

I was quite amused at Joshua's letter tell him I should not think he would care about having extras very often.

We are all well and we are still at Aunt Dinah's. Yesterday spent the day at Cousin Dinah's. She lives in Eben's house. Today we are going to Solomon's to spend the day. Solomon has gone to Nantucket and New Bedford to be gone a few days.

We have about got through with our visits up here now. I have had a very good visit indeed and am having what you may call a right good time.

The children too are making the most of the privilege they have of running about. I think to them it will be a great deal of good. And I feel a great deal better too than I did when I left home. But I do feel real home-sick sometimes and it seems as if I could not hardly wait to make out my visits.

I think I shall go to Mother's again tomorrow night if Solomon gets home with his horse.

Next Tuesday we expect to go to the Highland so we shall be there on the fourth. Mother is going up there with us and stop one night.

I sometimes think that I will come back with Mother Wednesday night and come home the last of the week. What do you think about? If you don't write before you get this I shall not get a letter from you before I go to Sally's. But could not you put a letter in the office Saturday night and then I suppose it would get here Monday night. So I shall expect one then if I do not get one before.

I do not know whether Mrs. Burke will want to come home so soon as I shall or not. Should she be coming about the time I want to come had I best come with her or by land? Will you please write me what you think about it?

Sarah Ellen thinks to go home with Mrs. Burke. Dinah says she should be very glad if you could come down and stop some. We are all very well here.

It was Emily's birthday yesterday did you think of it? Thomas has a great desire for me to write his name. I asked him what I should write he said write Thomas Lombard Davis. He seems to feel kind of home-sick sometimes and says he wants to see Father and when I ask him about home and the children he seems to want to go right home.

Sarah says she want to see Emily very much and the rest just the same. I long to see you all. It really seems as if I had been from home much longer than I have.

Much love to you all. I hope soon to hear from you.

Your Affectionate Wife

Anna G. Davis

Boston June 30, 1860

My Dear Wife,

I recd your letter this morning & am most happy to learn that you & those darling children are so well & that you are all enjoying yourselves so well.

We are doing first rate. The girls are baking in the oven to-day. Anna Burke is helping them. I thought it would be best for them to do so, now that we have ice & can keep the victuals cool, and they seemed quite willing to undertake it.

I feel quite impatient to have you come home and yet I am desirous to have you complete your visits, more especially as your health seems to be improving. I am willing to submit to any inconvenience & privation, if by doing so, your health may be benefitted.

I have been think^{ing} that the journey by land, with those two children, will be too much for you, this warm weather.

If Mrs. Burke is coming home early week after next, perhaps it will be best for you to stop & come with her, unless you would prefer to come by land. I don't value the expense, if you think the journey will not injure you.

Emily misses the children, as much as any of us I suppose, but she didn't complain, though I know she feels lonesome. There never was a better child. We should hardly know she was in the house if we did not see her.

Our house was never so still before, except when you were all at

Truro together. We shall know after this, which part of the family is most Bangsy & whom to charge the noise to.

The girls seem desirous you should make your visit out, although they are longing to see you & the children.

The boys are doing very well indeed, for boys. I found they were giving too much attention to play & found it necessary to curtail their liberty somewhat & place a little more restraint upon them. I do not think it well for them to play so much & so hard this warm weather.

I endeavor to make things as agreeable to the children, in this lonesomeness, as I can.

But my ability to promote the happiness of others is very small indeed. "As thou very well knowest."

As poor old Uncle Stephen Snow used to say, I expect they will say of me when I am gone. "We hadn't charity enough for that man. He was a better man than we gave him credit for."

Kiss the children for me & tell them I long to see them.

I pity the man, be he rich or poor, who has not a family to love & care for.

Bring Mother along with you when you come home if you can.

Your Affectionate Husband

J. H. Davis

Truro July 2nd 1860

My Dear Husband,

I did not get your letter until yesterday morning. I suppose you got mine Saturday evening. I suppose you will not be expecting another so soon, but I thought I would write a few lines just to let you know how we are.

You seemed to be surprised that you did not get a letter sooner last week but I did not think you would expect one before.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that you have discharged Ann, but have been thinking that possibly you might have to do so before I got home. I feel as if you had been perfectly right in doing, but I don't know hardly how you will make out till I get home. I feel as if I should like to start for home right away but we have not been to the Highland yet but have made arrangements to do so tomorrow afternoon.

I have not been to Elisha's yet and have two or three calls to make.

I should like very much to come in the Boat Friday should it be a favorable time.

I have about decided that it will be best for me not to stop at Provincetown on my way home as it will increase the trouble and expense, but that it will be best for me to get my trunk carried to Mr. Wilders and start from there in the stage. I think it will cost me less.

Cousin Dinah is talking of going to Boston very soon to buy some furniture. Should we go Friday or Monday I shall certainly try to go with her.

I am having a very nice time but long to get home. We are all well and the children are having a fine time but still I think they would like to go home. Sarah said yesterday. O dear! I want to see Emily.

You seemed to be in quite a poetic mood when you wrote last. O I forgot to say how very glad I was to get a letter. I should think from your writing that you would send for me if you dare to. No, but of course you but care how long I stay, I can stay just as long as I have a mind to. But I have not a mind to stay much longer I assure you. I wish you would advise me about coming home when and how I had best to come. I can't seem to decide what day I shall come until I hear from Dinah.

I should like very much to come when she does. I want to see you all very much. I was much pleased to have letters from the children. I hope they will make out well till I get home. I hope to have a letter from you tonight.

Much love to you all hoping soon to see you.

Yours Affectionately Anna G. Davis

If I had time I would write this letter over again it does not suit me very well and there are other things I would like to say but have not time to say them.

Truro July 5th, 1860

My Dear Husband,

I intended to have written in time for you to have received this letter Saturday morning and was very sorry that I could not have done so, but we did not return from the Highland until last evening so that it was too late to send one.

Mother staid up there as long as I did, and Betsey came over there Wednesday and was going back this morning, so that Mother and Sisters were all together which has not happened in a long time before.

We had a very nice time there and yesterday morning we all of us went up into the lighthouse, but you need not worry about that now for we are all back safe and well.

The children are very well and have been since we let home. I am well also.

Tommy has quite a coat of tan on but enjoys himself running around as much as he has a mind to when the weather permits and Sarah too.

We have got nearly through with our visit now. We expect to go to Elisha's tomorrow to spend the day, he is at home now. We think to go this afternoon to call on Aunt Anna and Angelia and that will close up all the visits and calls that I expect to make.

If nothing happens to prevent we shall come up in the Boat Monday.

Dinah is expecting to go and I think Azubah will come too she is going to have a vacation next week and she thought she would like to go up to Newton and see Ebens folks. So that will be a nice chance for me and I have just got ready to come too.

I long to get home and see you all wish I would know that you are all well, hope I get a letter to-day or to-morrow, hoped you are getting along well at home and hope that we shall arrive safe at home Monday and find you all well.

I don't know as it is any use for me to write any more as I expect to see you soon. Much love to you all.

Your Affectionate Wife

Anna G. Davis

Truro Aug 6th 1862

My Dear Husband

I don't know but you think me rather negligent about writing but I have not had an opportunity to write before.

We are all very well and the children are enjoying themselves finely. Tommy I think is a little home-sick, but his health is improving.

We went to Aunt Anna's yesterday and spent the afternoon. Sarah has gone up to Aunt Dinah's to-day to stop the rest of the week. Sarah went berrying with Grandmother Monday afternoon. They did not go very far and did not get many berries.

I don't think huckleberries are very plenty (but there are a good many blackberries). The Boys went Saturday afternoon and got some and then they went twice again Monday and Father went with them in the afternoon so we succeeded in getting quite a good parcel to send you. I hope you receive them in good order.

I want very much to hear from home and know how you are getting along. I expect you are having a real nice time there and are as still as possible. I must confess I am a little home-sick myself sometimes.

Now I will tell you what I want you should do. I want you to come down so as to stop a week and go around and have a good time. You can if you only have a mind to think so. They all want you to come very much.

I have not been up to Head-pamet yet they are having so much company there I don't know when I shall go.

Betsey & Nettie have just come over today.

The weather has been very warm since we have been here, to-day it is very much cooler with a strong wind to the north which is quite reviving.

The boys & father have just gone huckleberrying this afternoon. They are having a very nice time. Solomon has been helping Father thrash out his rye and this forenoon they winnowed it. Father likes as well to have the boys around with him as can be. I think the boys have really grown healthy since they have been down here, but I think there is the greatest change in Solomon. He is all the time going and yet never seems to be tired.

Sarah said she wanted Emily to write her a letter. I hope you will all write often. I feel quite impatient to hear from home not having heard one word since the day we left home.

I had to pay half fare for both the children all the way through. Ebenezer got my tickets for me and there are 70 cts due him as I had not the change to pay him.

I hope you will decide to come down. I know it will do you good and the girls will make out well enough I dare say. They must write all about their housekeeping.

Yours Affectionately,

Anna G. Davis

Boston Aug 8/62

Dear Wife,

I received your letter this morning. I expected one Sunday morning and came over to the P. Office on my way to church.

I am glad to hear you are all well. The girls sent letters by the packet which you will have received to-day.

The girls are getting along finely with their work, and are model housekeepers.

The berries came in good order. We are pleased to have them, but berries are plenty and cheap here. The boys had better keep grandmother supplied and we can obtain what few we want here.

I suppose the boys are enjoying themselves very much, but I would not have them remain to be burdensome. Five is a large number to add to a family and most too large to remain very long.

I will see that Ebenezer is paid. You do not write whether you have money enough for your purpose, and to defray your expenses home.

It is useless to talk about my going to Truro. Duty calls me here and at home. I wish to obey the voice of duty rather than of pleasure.

I wish to do what I can for my family while I have the ability, the little while I may remain with them. Perhaps some time or other they may appreciate my efforts for their benefit.

Public matters are assuming a more cheerful aspect. The large call of the President for troops meets with a ready and cheerful response. Enlistments are progressing rapidly and the public are feeling more confident and hopeful.

Indications are, that we are upon the eve of important events, time must reveal the results. I hope we are yet to have a government to bless and protect our children as we have been protected and blessed by it.

A kiss for the children, and kind regards for all.

Yours Affectionately,

J. H. Davis

Boston Aug 14/62

Dear Wife,

I was very glad to get your letter which Benjamin brought me last night. It seems a long time since I rec'd the last.

You do not write about your health or whether you find time to rest. You had better not try to walk far with the children through the sand.

I suppose Solomon can get somebody's horse and carriage when you have far to go.

We are all well. The girls are getting along splendidly. Everything is in fine order and seems just as it does when you are at home.

The washings go on like clockwork. On Monday the clothes were all on the line before I came to Boston and most of them were on the horse, airing, when I got home.

It is looking very nice about home now. The frequent rains keep everything looking very fresh and green. Tomatoes similar to those of last year are beginning to ripen. We had squash pies last week - could have had them before.

We are feeling very lonesome without you and time passes slowly, but I do not murmur, for I think of the many homes whose absent ones can return no more.

Sunday A. M. we went to the Winthrop Chh. and what should I hear but Mr. Packard's Abolition, War

sermon which I could hardly endure when he preached it at home on fast day.

Tell Sarah, that if I have occasion to write you again, I shall send a letter to her. I thought it might be pleasing to Thomas to have a letter of his own.

Some of those nice blackberries would be a great rarity. I seldom see any in the market, and when I do they are too dear to buy.

I have been very busy since you left home, but have got my work about all done now.

I shall enclose you \$5, - I did not suppose they would charge anything for Thomas. I think they do not generally for children as small as he.

I suppose the boys will not mind coming in the packet. They can select a favorable time. We must look after pennies these war times.

Let me know the day you are coming and I will meet you at the cars.

Jo. Lewis and wife have gone to Truro to-day. Perhaps some of them may be coming when you are ready.

It is not necessary to send the trunks when the boys come. They can take the Valise, and the trunks can be sent another time.

Much love to all,

Yours Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Truro Aug. 20, 1862

Dear Husband & Children

The packet arrived last evening and early this morning Father and the Boys took the dory and went down and have just returned saying that the packet is going again early in the morning.

It has been my intention for the boys to go this time in the packet and go the next day by land myself, but when they came home and said the packet was going so soon they all exclaimed loud against it.

The boys said they should not go and Tommy said he should not go, and Father & Mother both set in for us to wait till the next time, so I have concluded to do so as the children are enjoying themselves so much, and it seems to do them so much good to run around here.

Tommy has improved very much since he has been down here.

I feel as if I would like to get home and still it seems so nice down here I feel bad to leave.

I suppose you are getting along at home as well as if I were there, though you must be very lonesome I think.

We are all well. I feel very much better than I did when I left home and look better too I think.

I had a very nice visit last week to Head-pamet. Yesterday we went to Mr. Noble's and spent the day, and

to-day we are going to Elisha's, so I shall not have time to write a very long letter.

I received your letter that you sent last Friday with the money enclosed but have not had any convenient opportunity to write before unless I wrote Sunday.

I suppose the packet will be going the first of next week when you may expect the boys, and I shall calculate to start the next day after the packet.

I hope you will write us soon as you receive this. Tommy was much pleased with his letter and I suppose Sarah would like to have one pretty well.

How does Emily get along taking care of the rabbits and going after the milk. I should like to hear.

With much love to you all I must now close as it is time for me to get ready to go visiting.

Yours Affectionately

Anna G. Davis

I should like to hear from the girls and how those dresses get along.

Boston Aug 23, 1862

Dear Sarah,

I promised to write you a letter, but I do not know as I have much to write that will interest you.

We are all very well. It is very, very still at our house. Much more quiet than it is, usually when you are around. Some folks, you know, make more noise in the world than some other folks, and as far as my acquaintance extends, it is the smaller kind.

We all miss you but I suppose Emily misses you more than any of us, and probably feels in a great hurry to have you come home. She is very still and quite sober sometimes, but is a very good girl, as usual. I expect she is having a pretty good time with the exception of being lonely.

Sunday she came to Boston to meeting. Tuesday she came shopping. Wednesday she was away on a visit. Thursday she dined out and so on.

Mary Brown is the only little girl I have seen in the yard since you went away. If you stay much longer the grass will be springing up in the walk.

If I can learn when you are coming, I will meet you on the way.

Your Affectionate Father

J. H. Davis

Truro Aug 26th 1864

My Dear Husband

I received Mary's letter this morning and am glad to hear that you are all well and not very lonesome.

I have been thinking since I commenced writing that you will not get this letter before Monday morning. I should have written yesterday but as the children were going I thought it not worthwhile.

I am quite anxious to hear how they got home, as we had quite a squally day with us, though the wind did not blow very hard. I felt quite badly about their going in the morning it seemed so stormy. I am hoping that I may have a letter tomorrow evening informing me of their safe arrival.

I felt badly the morning we left that you could not go with us. I think you would enjoy it very much to come down and stay a week or so, and I think you ought to. I shall be looking for you in the course of a week to come down so as to go home with us.

Jaazaniah and Harriet came here the evening before the Boys left, and I thought infringed upon my rights considerably. I felt so badly about it that I had almost a mind to pack up and come home with the Boys.

Harriet is quite sick to-day with Neuralgia in her stomach, one of her old spells. She says she has not had such a bad one for some time.

I had been helping Mother around until they came and then she had Emily

come to help her, so I shall have a nice chance to rest now. I have not been anywhere yet except up to Sally's. She is not well, and is threatened with one of her spells of Asthma.

Yesterday forenoon Jaazaniah got Mr. Sylvester's team to take Harriet out to call around on the folks and he insisted upon the children going with them, so I let them go and they enjoyed it very much.

They are having a nice time. Father would really have liked to had Joshua stopped the remainder of his vacation but I did not know as you would approve of it.

They seem to think a good deal of him. They said he was to work all the time when he could find anything to do.

I expect their visit seemed very short to them and they would have been glad to have stopped longer, but I think Emily was a little home-sick.

The Stage was a little late and when it came in sight I noticed her countenance brightened up considerably she was so afraid of being left. I do hope they at home all right.

I shall answer Mary's letter so that she can get it the first of the week.

I hope you will all of you write often as I am always glad to hear from home.

Much love to you all.

Yours Affectionately

Anna G. Davis

Truro Sept 1st 1864

My Dear Husband

I received your letter last evening, and was very glad to hear that you had made up your mind to come down.

I should have got your letter on Tuesday evening, but depended on others therefore did not get it. I was almost sure that I should have one on Tuesday and sent by Emily to inquire for me, and she said she forgot to, so I concluded that if there had been any there for me that they would have sent it.

I was very sorry, for had I got it that day, I should have written yesterday for you to come down Saturday, as it is, I shall expect you some (though you will not get this before Saturday morning) as I wrote Mary I expected to come so soon.

I was very glad to hear that you were all well, for I was so afraid the Boys would take cold, it was very strange they did not.

I am at Sally's to-day, came here Tuesday and expect to go to Benj. Dyer's to-night. I think I shall not stop there long now but wait and make my visits there after you come down.

I am so glad you are coming for I know you will enjoy it. I rather think they will not have any objections to keeping you a few days.

If you are not coming Saturday I would like for you to come as soon as

you can, as I would like to get home by the middle or last of next week.

Sally is not very sick and Mother is quite smart. Myself and the children are very well. Tommy would like to go home, he feels as if he would like to go to school when it commenced.

Much love to the children, and charge them to be careful while you are gone.

I don't know as I have anything more to write and hoping to see you soon I shall close this very badly written letter, for my pen is so bad I can hardly write with it.

Yours Affectionately

A. G. Davis

Truro June 25, 1866

Dear Husband and Children

I thought perhaps you might begin to think that you would like to hear from us by this time so I will write a few lines just to let you know how we are.

We are very well and had a pleasant time down though not very quick. We arrived at Mother's about six O'clock. Mother was at the Post Office waiting for us. Mr. Wm. P. Atkins took us down there.

The folks here are as well as usual. I have not seen any of the folks from H. pamet except B. Dyer. He came down to the Stage to meet Kate.

I did not go to meeting yesterday, but Thomas went. He is a very good boy so far and I hope he will be all the time he is at school this forenoon.

I feel anxious to hear how you are getting along at home. I should enjoy myself a good deal better if Anna did not have to work so hard while I am gone. I hope that each one will try to lighten her burden all they can.

You must look out and get someone to help iron if you possibly can. I hope Emily and Sarah will be good girls and do all they can. How does Sarah get along? Does she feel any lonesome? I shall expect a letter from her soon.

There don't seem to be much to write about, there is not much going on here. It is very still and rather lonesome.

The first morning after we got here when Thomas woke up he said it seemed like Sunday.

I hope some of you will write so that I shall get a letter as often as twice a week at least. You must all of you take good care of yourselves and try to keep well.

Much love to you all.

Affectionately Yours

Anna G. Davis

I don't like this paper very well to write on. I can't write half as good as I could on different sheets. I don't know as you will be able to find any up-side or down to it.

(8-1/2 x 11 sheet of lined paper folded in half and written perpendicular to (across) the lines instead of on them. Poor quality paper. sh)

Somerville June 29/66

My Dear Wife

Please take notice, Mr. J. H. Davis lives in East Somerville. Any letter will be likely to reach him, if directed to East Somerville or No. 5 Blackstone St. Boston.

We have all been anxiously waiting for a letter and wondering that one did not come.

Today I had occasion to visit a school in the other part of town, and as I passed the P. O. there, I thought I would just look in, when lo! the long looked for letter came forth four days old.

It is most time for the Mail to close. I have only time to say we are all well and getting along nicely.

Somerville is in full bloom. The recent rain has put the brightest hue upon everything. You can imagine how beautiful it is here. I am sorry you cannot enjoy it with us.

I am glad to hear a good report from Thomas. We shall wish to hear by every letter that he is a model boy.

Much love to all.

Write often.

Yours Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Truro Monday noon July 2, 1866

My Dear Daughter [Mary]

I will write a few lines just to let you know I appreciate your epistle, though you did give me such a scolding, but I don't blame you very much for you must have wondered what had become of us.

But you see after all I was not so much to blame as you imagined.

I have written such a long letter to your father, that I shall not find much news to write you, but then you will get it all the same.

I have been washing a few things and am going to iron them before I go to Aunt Sally's.

They are having a vacation in the school here this week, and Ellie Lombard is at home, cooking for and waiting upon company. I think it is too bad when she needs rest so much.

Josiah and Susan, Margaret, her Mother and children are all there and Ellie had to come home to keep house, and as she had but one week vacation it seems rather hard. Josiah and Susan are going back in a day or two.

I suppose you are looking forward to your vacation with a good deal of pleasure for it must be very tiresome to teach this hot weather. I hope your cough has got well before this, if not you must do something for it immediately.

I want Emily and Sarah to be good girls and help Annie all they can. I am afraid she has to work too hard, but do get someone to help iron if possible.

Much love to you all, my dear children.

Your Affect. Mother

Anna G. Davis

Truro July 2, 1866

My Dear Husband,

I received your letter Saturday eve. and was very glad to hear from home. I do not wonder that you were surprised to find a letter where you did, but the cause has been explained in another letter to Annie which I suppose arrived Saturday morning. I think I shall not make such a mistake again soon.

We have been having some very warm weather here, though it has been quite comfortable since last Wednesday.

It must look beautiful at home now. I know I felt quite bad to leave it when I came, but still it is quite a pleasant change to come down here, where one can see out and get the good pure air right off the Ocean. But I feel rather lonesome sometimes and at first was almost home-sick especially last Tuesday when I was not well.

I was taken last Monday with sickness and distress at the stomach. I don't know when I have felt as sick as I did till somewhat relieved by vomiting. The next day I was scarcely able to hold my head up, but Wednesday was quite smart and have felt pretty well since.

I should not have said any thing about it but thought perhaps you might hear of it some other way and as I alluded to it in Annie's letter, I thought it would be best to explain.

I walked from Mother's to church yesterday morning so you may know I am quite well. We went to

Sally's to dinner and stopped until toward night.

Thomas did not seem very well yesterday, so he stopped with her while we were gone, he is as well as ever to-day and is enjoying himself very much and I am happy to say he is a very good boy.

We expect to go up to Sally's tonight to make our visit there. This will be the first of our going out to make my visits, so you see you need not expect us to home very soon.

The first of next week I expect to go to H.Pamet. I saw Dinah yesterday, she said we must come and stay all the week. Also saw Hannah and Mercy. They want us to come there, and as I want to see Aunt Thankful perhaps I may go some day.

I should like to hear from home very often, so I hope some of you will write as often as you can and when you write again I shall expect a longer one than the last. Write soon.

With much love to you and all
I remain

Yours

A. G. Davis

Boston July 11/66

My Dear Wife,

I have just received your kind and cheering letter. It is refreshing to know that there is somewhere one heart that sympathises with you and knows how to make all due allowances for your weaknesses.

I think life would be intolerable were it not so.

We are lonesome but now you are there you had better make your visit out. And when you get ready to come home come the way you prefer.

You must excuse the brevity, for I have so much to do to-day it seems as if my head would fly off.

I can think of nothing but Cinderella.

We are getting along nicely.

Your Affectionate Husband

J. H. Davis

Truro July 15th 1866

My Dear Husband

I received yours and Joshua's letters in due time and was glad to get them though they were both very short. I was disappointed at not receiving any letters Saturday, but hope that nothing is the matter at home.

I cannot help feeling some anxious as the weather has been very warm. I think I never experienced any hotter weather than it was here Friday and Friday night.

We went to Mr. Noble's in the afternoon. Gilman had the horse harnessed to the cart, so we just jumped in, Aunt Dinah, Katie, Thomas and I, and rode over there. We got a pretty good jolting, but it was better than it would have been to walk over there in the heat.

We came down to Mother's last night. Gilman brought us down, have not been to meeting as I thought it would not be best for me to walk so far, though I feel as well as I have any time since I have been here, and better than I have a good deal of the time.

I have not decided anything about coming home yet, but am waiting to hear from home first.

If you could come down Saturday so as to go home with me next week, I should like it very much. The folks seem to want you to come, and say that I must write so to you. I suppose you will write what you think about it in your next.

I have not seen Betsey yet and I don't feel as if I could bear to come home without seeing her. I hardly know what is best to do. She will come over here if I

could not go there, but it seems as if we are better able to bear the expense that she is.

And then again I can't bear the thought of crossing the water, and it seems as if it would be inconvenient to stop there as I have a trunk. Mother proposed hiring a horse and she go with us and drive, and go early in the morning and come back at night, but I cannot come to any decision and do not think I shall until I hear from you.

Thomas is well and does not seem to be in any hurry about coming home. He says he can think how you all look. He goes barefoot about all the time.

The town folks here say that Annie and Mary must be sure and come down, and they must make their calculations to do so.

I have had letters from all the children except Solomon and Emily. I should like to have them write should I stop long enough for them to do so.

Tell Sarah that I shall not forget that her exhibition is next Tuesday. I suppose she will be glad to get through. I should like very much to be at home to attend the exhibitions this week. I was not well enough to attend the last year.

Should we come home by land I have not quite money enough, as I have been obliged to spend some of what I had.

Monday morning

All well and the prospect of another very warm day.

Much love to you all.

Yours Affectionately,

A. G. Davis

Somerville June 17/72

Dear Wife,

I was greatly relieved to learn that you stood your journey so well. You must remember all the time that you are an invalid and not be doing indiscreet things whereby you lose all you may gain.

I have not yet heard of the safe arrival of the "Sunny Side," whereof Capt.. Cooper Banks is Master, and that trunk with its mysterious contents.

Items of Intelligence

Saturday: prior to which my memory does not serve me.

Call from Mercy Rich, Mary and Thomas ride to Woburn where they saw Azubah and her family, found Mr. Boardman doing finely. Solomon's arrival. Michael's family arrived at midnight.

Sunday: Brown Bread and Beans as usual. Mr. Hubbell, A. M., Mr. Hamilton, P. M. Mary went to Tufts College to hear the Baccalaureate sermon at 5 P. M.

Monday:

"One-half the world is wringing wet
Or on the lines a-drying."

No Murphy!

11 A. M. All finished up. Busy preparing course of study for the schools. Outside world making all the noise they can with Bells and Cannon and Torpedoes and Fire-Crackers. Mr.

and Mrs. Hughes and Annie Knight gone to New York.

We have had a very quiet time in the house since you went away. You must draw your own conclusion as to who makes all the noise when you are at home.

While luxuriating on fresh cream and eggs, etc. hope you will not forget poor friends at home living on what they can get.

A letter came Saturday from Betsey Cook, who is talking of coming to Somerville and also of going to Truro. You had better write her soon and let her know you are there.

I will enclose one of Joshua's photographs. I feel impatient to hear from him.

That's all. What you don't know now you must find out from the Somerville Journal.

Write often and let us know how you are getting along.

Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Somerville June 24/72

Dear Wife,

I hasten to forward Joshua's letter received this morning as I presume you feel anxious to hear of his safe arrival.

We are glad to hear that you are improving in health. Perhaps on the whole, that it is the best place for you. You had better see on what condition Mother will take you back. You are somewhat dilapidated it is true, but then in some respect you are worth a good deal more than when I took you. I guess it will be about right to make an even thing of it.

It is 12 o'clock; the clothes are on the line and Mrs. Murphy has gone home.

It would grieve Aunt Dinah greatly if you should spend four or five weeks in Truro and not make her a visit.

If you feel able, I think you ought to go by all means. Get someone to take you there, and make arrangement with the one who takes you there to come for you when you want to return.

Anna and Emily went to the Jubilee on Saturday and Emily is going again this P. M.

There is nothing new to communicate. All the folks are well, and everything is moving along as usual.

Thomas is going with Emily. Sarah don't care to go, and I am very glad she don't. It is a tiresome jaunt.

Write often.

Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Somerville June 28/72

Dear Wife,

We have your letter written 23rd and conclude from its contents that we may look for you about Thanksgiving time.

I put a couple of jars of fruit in a basket and took it to Boston Wednesday intending to fill the basket with other things and to sent it along by the packet, but:

"The best laid plans of mice and men
Gang aft a - gley"

The packet was not there and it was altogether uncertain when it would be, consequently I did not dare to fill it with anything else. If it goes at all this week, it will go as I carried it from home.

Is mother's flour nearly out? Is there anything else needed?

We are getting along nicely at home. The Jubilee fever has been raging pretty high; it reached its climax the day that Gen. Grant and I were there. As might have been expected, they brought forward their best talent on that occasion. Whether the Gen. will go again or not I am not informed. It is very certain that I shall not.

I suppose the question sometimes comes up: "Do they miss me at home?" Don't you wish I'd tell you?

You will see by the enclosed that the Exhibitions are in full blast.

I decided that it will be very unwise for you to undertake to walk, from

Mr. Noble's to Aunt Dinah's. Get someone to carry you.

My opinion is, if Betsey was as feeble as you are, she would expect for you to come and see her rather than vice versa. Especially if you were as strong as she is. They have horses of their own and can go to see you any day they choose if they care to.

Michael and his family and Nickerson and Clara are all at Ebenezer's. I have not seen Clara yet to inquire about Joshua. I called there yesterday but she had the sick headache so I did not see her.

Somerville Journal last week was so meager we did not send it. We will send it this week if it contains anything worth sending.

Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Betsey is here to tea; is going home tomorrow; will go to see you next week.

Truro July 1st 1872

Dear Husband

I have about made up my mind to come home before Thanksgiving and write especially to know when I had best to come.

I should like very much to be at home when Sarah graduates. I feel as if I should lose something if not present.

The time is drawing very near and if I decide to be there at that time I must come home the first of next week. If you should think it not best I shall probably wait till the schools close and you come down to go home with me.

We are having very warm weather here now and I am afraid you are having it very uncomfortably warm with you. Do be careful all of you and not expose yourselves to the heat unnecessarily.

I am glad Betsey is coming over here. I had made up my mind that I should not see her if she did not.

The packet didn't go at all last week, but she went out yesterday morning and probably is at Boston by this time.

I should like to hear from the girls but suppose they are very busy. I wish Thomas would write too. I long to see you all. If you have any letter from Joshua or news please send.

Much love to all Solomon and Josie included.

Write often

Yours Affectionately

Anna G. Davis

Somerville July 2/72

Dear Wife

We all want to see you bad enough and would be very glad to have you at home. But if you can content yourself we think you are the best off where you are for the present. It has been excessively hot here and the nights especially have been sweltering.

Sarah would like to have you present at her exhibition, but I am afraid that the heat and excitement would be too much for your strength. You must remember that your health is what we desire most of all just now.

I will propose the following programme. Finish up your visit at mother's first. The schools will close Friday & candidates for the High School will be examined Saturday the 13th. Early the week following some one of us will go down and come home with you.

In that event I would advise that you remain at mother's until we come. When you go to Aunt Dinah's it will be best for you to take your trunk along with you and start for home from there.

What do you say to such an arrangement?

I don't know that a week's vacation will do me any harm. Perhaps I will come early week after next and stay until the close of the week.

If any other arrangements will suit you better, you can write and let us know.

We are all well. Sarah went to the Coliseum Saturday and came out none the worse for it the next morning. These hot days, Thomas goes for the girls with the horse, so they are getting along nicely.

Affectionately

J. H. Davis

SOMERVILLE SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS, 1872.

Thursday,	June 27,	Prescott	Primary,	G. F. Wilson,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	"	M. E. Hartshorn,	10 "
"	" "	"	"	C. T. Brown,	11 "
Friday,	June 28,	"	Sub-Grammar,	N. W. Proctor,	9 "
"	" "	"	"	M. E. Eddy,	10½ "
"	" "	Forster	Primary,	H. E. Magoun,	2 P. M.
Saturday,	" 29,	Prospect-Hill	"	A. A. Roberts,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	Sub-Grammar,	C. Taylor,	10½ "
Monday,	July 1,	Edgerly	"	A. M. Cowles,	9 "
"	" "	"	Primary,	H. A. Adams,	10 "
"	" "	"	"	C. R. Cutter,	11 "
"	" "	Spring-Hill	"	H. H. Weld,	2 P. M.
"	" "	Franklin	Sub-Grammar,	F. N. Howard,	3 "
Tuesday,	" 2,	"	Primary,	L. C. Howe,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	"	M. A. Haley,	10½ "
"	" "	Harvard	"	E. F. Merritt,	2 P. M.
"	" "	Union	"	F. W. Kaan,	3 "
Wednesday,	" 3,	Webster	Sub-Grammar,	A. L. Sanborn,	9 A. M.
Friday,	" "	Jackson	"	M. Miller,	9 "
"	" "	"	"	L. W. Shelton,	10½ "
"	" "	Lincoln	Grammar,	H. P. Makechnie,	2 P. M.
				E. L. Burbank,	
				L. E. Woodward,	
Saturday,	" 6,	Jackson	Primary,	L. J. Page,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	"	R. F. Woodberry,	10½ "
Monday,	" 8,	Bennett	Sub-Grammar,	A. M. Leland,	9 "
"	" "	"	Primary,	A. Sanderson,	10½ "
"	" "	Morse	Grammar,	Wm. P. Allen,	2 P. M.
				S. S. Stetson,	
				N. P. Nichols,	
				M. E. Sargent,	
Tuesday,	" 9,	Bennett	Primary,	H. A. Locke,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	"	K. D. Perry,	10½ "
"	" "	Prospect-Hill	Grammar,	F. M. Hawes,	2 P. M.
				F. L. Child,	
				C. S. Plimpton,	
				E. M. Gooding,	
				L. L. Gordon,	
Wednesday,	" 10,	Cedar-Street	Primary,	A. Simpson,	9 A. M.
"	" "	Lincoln	"	P. J. Teele,	10½ "
Thursday,	" 11,	Brastow	"	B. A. Hill,	9 A. M.
"	" "	"	Sub-Grammar,	S. E. Pennock,	9½ A. M.
"	" "	Forster	Grammar,	G. R. Bradford,	2 P. M.
				A. M. Snow,	
				F. M. Guptill,	
				E. C. Long,	
				A. C. Willis,	
Friday,	" 12,	Hill,		Geo. L. Baxter,	9 A. M.
				W. F. Marston,	
				S. L. Graves,	
				S. W. Fox,	
				M. E. Davis,	
				A. E. Long,	

Somerville July 8/72

Dear Wife,

It seems like a long, long time since I saw you. I was hoping to go to Truro in one week from to-day, but I shall be obliged to attend a meeting of the Committee next Monday evening. I hope to start Tuesday morning. That will soon be here.

I thought I detected a little evidence of homesickness in your letter to Anna. We are lonesome enough at home, I am not surprised that you feel somewhat so where you are.

I suppose you have heard from Joshua. We had a letter Saturday in which he stated that he had written to you.

You failed to say anything about your health. I hope you are gaining all the time.

It is one o'clock, Mrs. Murphy has just gone. I told Anna to put the washing upon her mainly, which I think she did.

It is uncomfortably hot here, but we manage to get along.

The Programme will be out Wednesday, when I will send you one.

I have not time to write much, but will tell you all about it when I see you.

Affectionately

J. H. Davis

Addressed to:

*J. H. Davis Esq.
Truro
Mass
care of Thomas H. Kenney*

E. Somerville Aug 5, 1873

Dear Father,

I suppose you would like to hear just a word from home to night.

We are all well and getting along nicely. Joshua seems much better; has been at the market all of yesterday and to-day.

I am sorry to say they think Aunt Betsey Davis is no better than when you left. Aunt B. Gross and Sarah called a little while ago - said they had seen Mrs. Hannah Stevens and she seemed to have little hope of her recovery. I don't know the Doctor's opinion.

Mr. Bowles called last night to see you. Said he would call again next week if he remained in town so long.

I think of no more news.

Love to all

Annie



Wm. H.

42 Broadway.

ELIZABETH GROSS LOMBARD PETERSON
1794 - 1873

Truro Oct 27 1861 (?)

My Dear Daughter

You must excuse me for not answering your letter before, as I have been very busy the two weeks past, as it is raining to day and I cannot not go to meating, I thought I would write A few lines to let you know how we are all getting along.

Father's health is much better than usual, Mine is very good I think it never was better.

Sally had quite a sick spell after she got home, but she got well again very soon, she has been gone to Provincetown more than A weak, Elisha goes with Richard Rich fishing. Father has been gathering his corn he has about 29 bushels.

we are very much obliged to you for all the nice things you sent us, those Pears were verry delicious, I am afraid you robed your self, I wish we had something nice to send you.

The women are mostly egaged in knitting and sewing for the Soldiers in all parts of the town, we are knitting socks, makeing quilts pillows shirts and draws I think we shal have A large lot ready by the 5 of next month. I have been engaged in cuting and distributing the work in this parte of the district

as I can think of nothing new to write I will close we join in sending much love to you all I should like for the girls and Boys to write when they can

yr affectionate Mother

E Peterson

Truro Feb 13th 1864

My Dear Daughter

I received your letter on the 8th was very glad to hear that you are enjoying good health, my health is very good, and has been since I got well of the cold,

Fathers bodily health is good, but he suffers much with pain in his arms and shoulders,

Sally's health is very good this winter, she was here thursday with the rest of the family and spent the day,

Ruth and the children are all well also all our friends here.

The hooping cough is very prevalent among the children, some of them have it very bad, as Ruth's children have all had it except the youngest I hope she will not have it this winter

Truro seems to be going down very fast several families have moved to Provincetown, Capt Lewis and Joseph Collins and 3 or 4 other families from the south side of the river moved last week and there are several others that talk of moving from Truro,

They got the vote in Town meeting to discontinue the foot bridge and are taking it up, and I fear that many on the south side of the river will leave our society and go to the south, I expect there will be a draft in Truro to fill the quota as they have but part at present

I was in hopes they would get substitutes, I think there is not much prospect at present

I expect the girls have improved very much in music this winter I should like very much to hear them tell Anna and Mary I think often of the June roses I hope they still continue to bloom, I want to see you all very much and hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you here next summer if not before

I feel very grateful to you and Joshua likewise to all the family for your kindness to me while I was with you, I should think Joshua could come and make us a visit this winter,

Tommy Peterson wants you to tell Tommy Davis he goes coasting every opportunity when there is any snow as there has been but a short time for coasting, Tommy Peterson sends much love all and wants to see you very much,

With much love to all I will close

Your affectionate Mother

Elizabeth Peterson

Truro Sept 7 186(?)

Dear Daughter

we received your letter with the basket of pears, I was very glad to hear that you all got home well, and found them all well at home, I was quite anxious to hear from you, as you was not verry well the morning you left, We are verry much obliged to you for the pears they are verry nice, I am afraid you robbed the Children sending us so many, Nettie was better I think she did not have anny sore to break, it was very lonesome after you was gone.

Father missed the Boys verry much. Betsey went home Saturday morning, I could not persuade her to stay any longer, I expect the plumbs were most of them spoild they had been so long on board of the Packet we picked them Saturday afternoon and put them on board the Packet monday morning, as the wind was not fair she did not go until Wednesday evening.

Sally was quite sick two days last weak when the wind was North, she is verry much better now and has been for three days past. She is not confined to her bed I think she will soon be as well as usual, I carried her some of those pears to day,

Last Wednesday Mary Ayres Mary Kenney and myself had A horse and carriage and went down to the head of the meadow after beach plumbs we carried our dinner with us, we had a verry nice time we got over a bushel of plumbs, Mary wanted them to carry home she went by land Saturday morning, we did not get home from our

cruis until sunset when I got home Father had just gone after Blackfish they succeded in driveing ashore 159 on the pond shore Father sold his share for 25 dollars he thinks he shal get 20 more for the use of his try works

Father has been very much better last week. I think I my health is better than common.

There has been considerable excitement in raising volunteers they have now got their ful quota The Ladys have been very busy geting something for the sick and wounded Soldiers

as they chose me for one of the committe I have been very busily engaged so that I have not had time to write before Father joins with me in much love to you all as it is growing dark, I must close

Yours Affectionately

E Peterson

Truro February 17th 1868

My Dear Granddaughter

I was much pleased to have a letter from you, I have been waiting to have something new to write. I cannot think of anything that will be very interesting, as far as Christmas presents we did not have anny this year, I think you had the largest share of presents in your family.

I have been to church to day. There was an exhibition in the hall two evenings last week it was mostly by the Sabbath School scallors. They had some very good pieces and some very nice music. I went Tuesday evening the hall was full with as many as could sit and stand.

last Wednesday we went to aunt Sallys to spend the day, Elizabeth was there with her baby. She is very pretty and as bright as she can be, she went home this afternoon.

Grandfather is much better than he was when I wrote last but he has not been able to go in the woods since.

My health is very good.

Your cousins and friends here are all well., Alice wishes me to tell you that she drew a large doll at the fair Christmas evening she says you must come and see it next summer and Solomon and Joshua must come with you.

Thomas Peterson sends his love to Thomas Davis says he should be glad to have a letter from him and hopes he will come and visit him next summer.

I hope you will come and make us a long visit with your Mother, next summer.

I will close with much love to all.

Your Affectionate Grandmother

Elizabeth Peterson

Truro Oct 31st 1869

My dear Daughter,

I received your letter of the 24th am very glad to hear that you are all well.

I should have written before but I was cleaning house at the time, I have got all through.

My health has been very good all the summer and fall, Father suffers very much with pain in his stomach.

We should be happy to see you all, I don't expect to see you unless you come and make us a visit as we cannot leave home this coming winter as we have 2 cows and a hog and the fowls which keeps father busy all the time.

I wish you and Joshua would come and make us a visit this fall it has been a long time since you was here.

Sally's health is much better than it was the first of the fall.

our society are going to have a fair and supper Thanksgiving evening, our society sustains a great loss in the death of Mrs. Hopkins she was a very useful member.

we had a letter from Isaac last week wishing us to come and spend Thanksgiving with them we shall have to decline all your kind invitations.

we feel very much indebted to you all, hope you will be rewarded for all your kindness as we never can repay you.

I want to see Sarah very much, is she as well as she was when she got home last summer, father says if she is not well she must come here and stay with us until she gets well again.

Joshua will find some beets and a large pumpkin on board the packet for Thanksgiving. Father says he wants Sarah to save some of the seeds and come next summer and help him plant them.

Remember us to Solomon and Josie with much love to you all.

Your ever affect. Mother

E. Peterson





Elisha Gross Peterson

News Clipping - ca. 1883

Two Brave Men

Carrying a Keg of Powder from a Burning Room Through Flames

The *Boston Globe* says: A fire in a block in Portland, Me. owned by A. L. E. Clapp destroyed property to the value of \$18,000.

In the midst of the fire some men went into an upper room and removed a keg of powder carrying it through the flames and preventing an explosion.

"The credit of taking the powder out of the burning building last night does not belong to me," said Samuel Thurston, fireman, to-day. "That was the act of Elisha G. Peterson."

"Samuel Thurston was within three feet of the powder, and kept his place at the pipe," said a fireman. "When Peterson went by Sam he said, 'There's a keg of powder there.' Said Sam: 'Get it out, my place is here!' And there he stayed."

"Peterson saved at least twenty-five men," said Chief Engineer Cloyes. "There were fully that number on the ladders front and rear, and of pipemen in the building. Samuel Thurston was at the end of the pipe close by the keg. The room was full of fire, and it was dropping down from overhead at the moment when Peterson performed his heroic act. Had that powder exploded it is simply impossible to say how great the loss of life might have been."

Mr. Peterson is about 50. He said: "I knew where it was, and of course, I had to get it out. I can't see that I deserve any credit for doing it."

Others think differently about that point, however. Peterson rushed upstairs and took the powder from the flames himself and carried it in his arms, through a room full of fire, to the open air. His wonderful courage was equaled perhaps by the nerve displayed by Samuel Thurston, who stood at his post when he knew that he was in the presence of almost certain death.

Portland, Me
Oct 9th 1915

My Dear Nephew

I have now been in Portland about two months and shall make it my home as long as I last.

When I first came here they were busy at the Shop and I worked three or four weeks untill I worked myself out of a job but there will be some work for me soon have been gunning some but the birds are very scarce and I don't care to go after them unless the weather is fine.

I tried two Boarding Houses that were recommended to me as fine but I would not punish myself to stop but a week in each they don't know what good cooking is.

I have some fun with the Boys at Billiards and win about 7/8 of my games. The Proprietor put an ad in the Paper challenging any man in the State that is over 80 years old with \$5.00 in Gold for a 200 point game but I don't hear from any one yet.

I have got a very nice room at No 3 Congress Park in back of the Lafayette Hotel and get my meals where I can find the best.

Steadman, Frank's Boy, was operated on last week for Appendicitis and is now out of danger but he had a close shave as they waited most too long not knowing what was the matter.

My Landlady and her Sister are friends of mine and say if I am sick they will look out for me. I have had rheumatism in one knee for about a month but is most well now and I am feeling fine.

I may come up some time in November and make a short visit to all my relatives.

Yours with Love to all

E. G. Peterson

P.S. I have started to make a fiddle. dont know if it will sound like a Crow or a Nightingale. let us hope for the best.

Portland Sun

ca. 1915

SOMETHING ABOUT A VETERAN GUNNER

Have you ever heard of Old Pete?

Well, that is the term given to Elisha G. Peterson by his many friends who have come to know him well. At first it would seem to the reader as being a disrespectful manner of addressing a man of 85 years of age, but he has grown accustomed to it and now he answers to it instantly.

Mr. Peterson by way of introduction is one of the most pleasing young old gentlemen you could hope to meet in many weeks of travel and he is one of the most enthusiastic bird hunters that Portland ever put out. Without half trying, he leads the list of the Old Guard of shore bird hunters and some of the stories that have been related by him at his trim little cabin of gray far out from the Eastern division railroad tracks, would do your ears good to listen to.

It was not so long ago either that he was out on the marsh with two men, much younger than himself. They each took their shot at passing birds and both missed. "Pete," said one, "you see if you can drop one of those birds when they fly past." With that twinkle in his eye, Mr. Peterson picked up his shotgun and took aim at a "summer yellowleg" as it quartered past the camp. Bang! and the bird crumpled up and fell to the edge of

a salt pond. Neither man made further allusion to the incident from that day to this, but as they sipped their coffee that noon, all were quiet, but it was evident that a lot of thinking was done.

Cheery, optimistic and light hearted as 85 Summers through which Mr. Peterson has passed, set particularly light upon his shoulders although at times he is a bit unsteady upon his feet.

Elisha G. Peterson was born in Truro, Mass., on October 13, 1833, the son of John and Elizabeth Peterson. Until he had completed his education and arrived at the age of 33, he resided in the town of his nativity he having been engaged in the real estate business.

For about 10 years he traveled for two cousins and in his travels he covered pretty much all of the western section of the Country but made his headquarters in New York State.

But it was while a boy of 14 that he developed a great aptitude for gunning. "I found that there was some great snipe and quail shooting to be had in Truro," said Mr. Peterson in explaining one of his early experiences. "I knew that my Grandfather Smith had an old long single barreled musket and I got possession of this and finally reached the stubble where the birds were to be found. I was not strong enough to hold the big gun up to my shoulder so I cut a

Portland Sun

ca. 1918

crotched stick to rest the barrel upon. With this I found that I could handle the gun very nicely. I saw a bunch of birds that afterward turned out to be quail and I fired with a terrible result both to me and to the birds. When I gathered myself together after firing the big gun, I went about and picked up the birds and trudged home."

"Two years after that, my Uncle Elisha Gross, a 49er who had made a fortune in California in the great gold rush, gave me a \$10.00 gold piece and scraping up what money I had saved I purchased me my first double barreled fowling piece. I used to go to school in the Winter and worked with my father when a boy in the summer, he being a carpenter. I can recollect one incident so clearly," said Mr. Peterson, stroking his white beard. "We were building a house for a brother, Captain Thomas Peterson who was afterwards captain of the Gunboat Dianna and who was killed at the opening of the Civil War while in action in New Orleans harbor. I saw some plover circle about over the marsh and then settle down some distance away. I left my work when father's back was turned and was gone a long while. When I returned, father was talking with my cousin. Father noticing me said: 'Boy if you don't get a licking now, there are no snakes in Ireland.' After a minute and I thought father was going to put his words into action, my cousin Louis Lombard spoke to father 'Uncle John, there are no snakes in Ireland as St. Patrick banished them all years ago.'"

Mr. Peterson has distinguished himself by saving life for which he holds a medal. He has been successful in horse racing and as a trapshoot he has won many prizes. In fact Mr. Peterson is one of Portland's best known men and he is a sportsman to the backbone and one never grows weary in his company.

So if you want an introduction to "Old Pete" all you need to do is whistle the winter yellow leg plover call so he can hear it and when he turns about he's your friend.



Miss Annie M. Davis,
Care Emerson D. Dyar, Esq.
Eyota,
Olmsted County,
Minnesota

Solomon
Em. Dec. 12, 1875

372 M 3-2
280 L 1-6 M

Somerville. Decem. 12. 1875.

Dear sister Annie,

Your kind letter of 6:inst. came duly to hand, - was very acceptable and I take this early opportunity of making reply. Some how or other, it happens that, most of my letter writing is done on Sunday. I will not at this time, however, weary you with a narration of the days services. Suffice it to say that the day has been a pleasant one and very mild indeed for the season.

Mr. Hubbell has preached all day while Bro. Watson took charge of the Sab. bath school. ~~Mrs. Hubbell~~ ~~has~~ been writing Mary today. Her letter probably contains most of the home items of interest. Quirmaker and dressmaking have undoubtedly been well treated by her. The general health of the family is also noted on her pages, I presume. To write anything

anyways new I have about, come to the conclusion that, I must write about things that have occurred since mother's letter was finished.

Perhaps, however, before entering upon a narration of the events, as just intimated, - at the risk of repetition, - I will venture a few thoughts from Carrie, -

She is, as you are well aware, very cunning. It is difficult,

I am well aware, to make her appear so, on paper. The action, - the expression

and the pronunciation, are all absent from these pages, -

Without these requisites, - even if not that you had seen her so recently, together with an active imagination, - it would be utterly useless for me to presume, even, to write anything on this subject. As it is however I

venture, She was very much pleased to receive a letter from you. On being asked where she got that letter? would say 'from Aunt Fannie'. Well where is Aunt Fannie?

"Way out west with Uncle Em and Aunt Mary".
"What did Aunt Annie write?" "About a little
kitten." Then she would hug the letter
and act as jealous of it as --- a
hungry dog of a very nice bone.

Bessie is wide awake long before
daylight and into our bed. There is
no rest for the weary; after she arrives,
This morning she commenced about as
follows - [to her half asleep father] - "Papa Papa
I want to talk about Santa Claus - Oh he's
coming in two weeks." "Does it? Well
what do you want to find in your stocking."
"A funny man - man jump right up so - Bessie
have him up to Cross St." You remem-
ber the Jackson at home that Ed Booth
gave her a year ago. "Bessie wants
a rubber baby - and a carriage". Then
she changed the subject - "Bessie has
a Brown, in a horse car, - a shopping -
Bessie bought a dress for Bude - cost six
dollars." etc. etc. I suppose the folks
have written you in regard to what

we propose to do for Carrie at Christmas. I will therefore drop this branch of my letter, and proceed to the "news".

Bazillai Paine and his daughter Susie are here; - They may have arrived before mother finished her letter; - if so, - I should have written "news" further down this page. If mother noticed the animals I am quite sure she has given you none of the conversation. Will we commence by talking about murders and murderers. The Piper trial is now in progress. - Piper, as you may remember is the alleged murderer of Mabel Young. - the little five year old girl in the belfry of the "Wanamaker Avenue Baptist Church". I took the ground that the evidence, which is all in for the Government and entirely of a circumstantial nature, was insufficient for a jury to bring in a verdict of "Guilty". While the old gentlemen

thought 'nobody else, could have committed the murder, consequently he must be guilty.' After discussing the Piper case at some length, we touched on the Pomeroy case, - the Jefferson Borden murders, - the Costly case, - the LaPaige-Suncook murder, - Pemberton, - the East Boston murder case, - and some others which do not occur to me at this moment. -

From murder Joshua introduced Murray. - Barzillai didn't think religion and horses a very good mixture. I suggested that Murray was an excellent preacher, drew crowded houses, - was quite orthodox, - and I ~~thought would be the~~ means of great good.

Barzillai believes in free churches and in taxing church property, - Murray also believes in these two principles, - consequently Barzillai began somewhat to change his view of Murray and finally thought 'he might be a very good man.'

From Munay the conversation led to one Rev. Mr. Haskell who was located at Wellfleet in the olden time.

This Haskell it seems was connected with a scandal, - as an attorney for one of the parties in interest, - that caused considerable of a stir in Turo some forty years ago.

Ambrose Snow, I believe, was supposed to know something about the matter. - So poor no legged Ambrose had to be brought into our conversation,

This led to the observation that Turo for a place of its size, had had a good many curious subjects, - Joe Paine and John Demon as a consequence received a passing word of notice. One MacDonald came in for some rather uncomplimentary remarks from Bazillai at this point.

The Rich family was in some mysterious manner introduced at this period of the proceedings.

Father at this point wanted to know if Mrs. Knight

did not bear a strong resemblance to her mother. Barzillai thought she looked just exactly like her. He thought the Dr. had a very narrow escape and was afraid it would be sometime before he would again be able to be out.

~~The ~~Atkins~~ relationships I believe were~~
next gone into, - but as I am not much
shaken on genealogy, will be brief on
this part of the conversation. - Barzillai
and Lurie previous to the foregoing con-
versation attended church, - they also attended
supper at our house. We had a good
supper. Very nice cold corn beef,
white bread and brown, preserved plums,
~~floating island, cake, apple pie, tea~~
milk etc. Soon after tea father
and Mr. Paine called over to see the doctor,
but he being tired and restless, thought
it best to come home without seeing
him. It is two weeks tomorrow
since the doctor met with his accident.
He must have been very severely injured

for as yet he is unable to leave his room, only sitting up a few moments each day. - To continue the

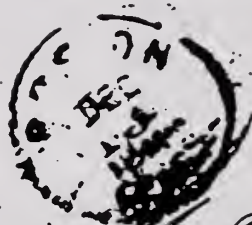
conversation. - Barzilai thought it was best always to drive a safe horse, though as far as he was concerned, ~~was~~ ~~pretty particular that with safety~~ ~~himself~~ ~~new~~ should be combined. At this

point the clock struck nine and reminded Barzilai that the enjoyments of this life are transitory and that the journey home should be commenced.

The old gentleman is pretty smart for a man of his years is 79. We all enjoyed his visit, and the enthusiasm with which he entered into all kinds of conversation, very much. He invited

us all out to his house. He invited he and his daughter to call again.

As soon as the front door was shut, I quietly advised Joshua to play his game for Queen. There's millions in it. The folks are all abed, it now being after ten o'clock. So good night. Remember me to En & Mary, with love. Yours, Solomon,



Miss Annie M. Davis,
Care Emerson D. Dyar, Esq.
Exota,
Olmsted County,
Minnesota

Solomon
Farmville Dec 26, 1875

Somerville, Decemr. 26. 1845.

Sunday evening.

Dear sister Annie.

I hardly know how to begin this letter, I was about to commence 'Your favor of 21. inst. etc.' but not wishing to tell a lie I hesitated. Was that your letter, or had you been stealing somebody else's thunder? I think the appropriation of the words and ideas of another's letter, by an individual, just as bad as the appropriation of another's sermon, by one in the ministerial profession. For the present therefore I acknowledge the receipt of no letter from you, but if I learn that yours to me, was the original manuscript, - will duly apologize, acknowledge receipt and reply to the same. It was rather thoughtlessly suggested, some weeks since, that eight letters, signed by

as many different members of the family, be sent from here to you, - corresponding exactly in word and idea.

The thought was not for an instant entertained, being considered beneath the dignity of the tribe.

If this brilliant idea as carried out, was the result of 'westernizing', - think I will remain east a spell longer. Such a waste of precious time, of paper, of envelopes and of money is incompatible with the present hard times.

If ideas and time were both scarce, as they seem to have been, how much better it would have been to have commenced a letter with the names of the family in Sonewille, - and ended by the signing of the name of the composer, - and underneath "We the undersigned acknowledge the foregoing etc. etc. (signed) C. D. Gyar."

"A word to the wise is sufficient" it is said, and trust that in this

instance, no exception will be made to the rule. The one letter in eight envelopes came to hand early Christmas morning, - containing the first intimation that there was anything on the way from Oyota to Somerville, in the shape of Christmas gifts. We began to wonder where those boxes were. It was too bad they had not come to hand. I suggested that we hunt them up, so Joshua and I started for Baton.

It had snowed and rained the night before and as we started the air was filled with mist. You can't imagine better than I can express on paper, - how things looked, out of doors, in this section of the country on that morning. - We went first to the office of the American Express Co. - but no boxes, - then to the local express offices in Court square - but no boxes. Our

only hope now, was the western train due at 10 o'clock. We therefore went up to the Albany depot to await the arrival of that train. It reached the city thirty minutes late. We very soon thereafter got a sight of the "hay bails" and found that the boxes were on the train. It was not until half past eleven, however, that we had the boxes under our arms and commenced the journey home. We arrived safely at about half past twelve and very soon after, the contents of the boxes were distributed to their respective owners. — I have to acknowledge the receipt of a necktie and "Whittier's Mabel Martin". I am very much obliged for these tokens. I suppose I am especially indebted to you for the necktie. Tell Mary and Emerson that I am greatly obliged for their beautiful gift, and will in

due course acknowledge its receipt, to them. Jorie is much obliged for her present and will write soon in regard to it. Emily and Sarah are writing minutely of our doings Christmas and the presents received by each of the family 'from the youngest to the oldest.' I will therefore endeavor to find something of interest in an entirely different channel to communicate. In my last letter to Mary I mentioned that, the Sabbath school class with which I was connected, was to surprise and present to Mr. Tewksbury their teacher 'Chambers Encyclopaedia'. The affair came off as proposed and the following is a detailed account of what transpired. To correctly understand all that I am to relate I must first give you the names of the class. They are Brigham, Currier, Davis (Lr.), Davis (Sr.), Eaton, Heath

Hathaway, Lewis, Littlefield, Noble, Rankin,
Rich and Sanborn, Mrs. Tuckebury

was in the secret, Thursday evening
was the time set and as good fortune
would have it, the 'Ladies Sewing Circle'
met with Mrs. Guild the same evening.

Mrs. T. left home with the intention of
attending the business meeting at 7 o'clock.
Mrs. T. being requested to follow at a later
hour, Currier, however, who is in
the habit of calling at Mr. T.'s dropped
in about half past seven, and thus
kept the old gentleman at home.

Eight o'clock was the time set for the
rest of the boys to put in, an appearance,
and when that time arrived they began
to drop in 'a little lively'. Mrs. T. was
taken completely by surprise. He hardly
knew what to do. He was first in
one room and then in another, but
finally he collected his wits sufficiently
to send for his wife. The surprise
somewhat over, - we engaged in singing

conversation, and the cracking of jokes. At half past nine we were invited into the dining room where a very pretty entertainment had been prepared. This over, I was called upon for a speech. Wouldn't you have liked to have heard that speech? Well, as that was impossible, and as the next best thing to hearing is reading, I propose (as this letter is written for your entertainment) to give you what I can remember, as having said on the occasion, in question.

Ladies and Gentlemen. After dinner addresses and after supper speeches have grown into such a common custom, that on any public occasion the one seems incomplete without the other. I think it highly appropriate on an occasion of this kind, where we are met for social intercourse, and to draw still tighter the cord which binds our hearts in Christian love that we should not depart from a custom so long established. But I do not quite understand why you should call upon me as the first speaker. It certainly cannot

have been on account of my name, for
there is one of your number of more
noble (Noble) name than I. It cannot
have been on account of my winning ways,
for while for a way I often find myself non
plused, there is one of your number of
whom it can always be said Will hath
a way. (Will Hathaway). It cannot ^{have} been
on account of my wealth, for while cir-
cumstances may at any moment render
me poor, there is one of your number,
that no circumstance in life, can change
from being rich (Rich). - while there
is still another of your number who has
for a perpetual earthly inheritance a little
field (Littlefield). ~~... and I believe he is~~
liable at any time to double on his possessions.
It cannot have been on account of my
gastronomic capacity, for I, certainly
should have to yield the palm to one,
who after all the rest are done, can
still eat on (Eaton). It cannot
be on account of any poetic genius

that I may possess, for love is said to be the flame that oftmost kindles the touch of poetic genius, and if I am correctly informed, there is one of your number

Who, in pretty song or rhyme could tell

Of things, that oft to him befell -

As by her side - star lit skies beneath -

Rambling o'er the dell and heath: (Scott)

Thus you may search the rank and (Rankin)

file of this whole class, not excepting your Bigham young. I see no reason why you

should not leave I (Levi) out, and that

the choice should fall upon our Butter

merchant (Burrill) for who is there of

our number so well qualified to represent

the cream of the class. Possibly a solitary

objection might be made by the use of the

rather vulgar expression "cheese it", but I

am, certain the majority of the class would

be eggs-actly of my opinion, I

am rather forced to the opinion, then,

that I have been called upon as

the first speaker, in compliance with

a certain natural law, which requires that the small end of the wedge should always go first, and that later in the evening we shall hear from the heavy artillery.

I have remarked on a number of occasions, Mr. Twickenham, that you had a very nice set of boys in your Sabbath school class, and I understand that, a number of young ladies in this community have arrived at the same conclusion.

There are two things which it is said human nature, cannot keep long hid love and a secret. Love especially seeks expression.

We show our esteem for you by our constant attendance in ~~the class~~, the attention which we give to your instruction and the kindly greeting as we meet day by day.

But your class, on this occasion, have desired to present you with some more tangible expression of their regard, and I take pleasure in presenting to you these volumes. Some men

you know, are styled 'walking encyclopedias' - You are also aware that all men's brains, are not sufficiently large to accommodate shelf room for so many volumes. And while we do not wish to intimate any lack of capacity in this regard, ^{on your part} we do trust that you may find these books convenient for frequent reference. Please accept then on behalf of your class this expression of their love."

The books had been concealed in the front hall and were brought in at the proper time. Mr. Twinebury responded with much feeling, saying that this was another surprise and expressing his gratitude for the gift. ~~Cum gratias~~ Noble, and some of the other boys made a few remarks. We then spent a half hour in singing and at 11 o'clock were homeward bound, having enjoyed our visit very much.

I guess this letter is about long enough so will bring it to a close.
Love to all,

Write soon.

Your loving brother.
Solomon.

Somerville, February 27, 1876.
Sunday evening.

My dear sister Annie.

Your interesting letter of January 30th. duly reached me and should have been more promptly answered. First, come first served is the rule I am endeavoring to follow in letter writing. A short time since you were all writing me letters but latterly the accounts have stood the other way. I will endeavor in future to keep the thing more evenly balanced.

Mary's letter of 20:met came to hand Thursday and seems a continuation of yours that I am now answering.

I can seem to see that meeting house, - its appearance within and without, - how the parishouse looks and can imagine about the kind of sermons are preached.

Quite a change, certainly for one accustomed to the privileges of an eastern city.

The weather here for the past few days

has been quite cold, Thursday morning
the mercury indicating 4° below 0.
Today the air is very chill. Marchy-
will probably convey the idea to your
mind. We have certainly had
a remarkable winter. Almost March,
and thus far only three days of
sleighbing. He may have a cold
late Spring to make a sort of decent
'average' but trust that as the winter
has been an exception, Spring will also
be an exception, and prove as mild
as that recorded of 1775 when on April
19th the grass was tall enough to wave.
The weather, though the subject of much
conversation and the filling of many
letters, - is at best a dry subject, —
Bessie is as well and bright as ever, -
She is getting to be quite a large girl, -
is very cunning and affords us much
amusement. She often speaks of
Aunt 'Nannie' as also of Aunt Mary
and Uncle Em. You will probably

notice a great change in her when you come to see her again. As often as I write, with I could approximate to her cunning ways and expressions; but as often am convinced of the utter impossibility of such an undertaking. - She commits things to memory very readily and we have to use the utmost caution in what we say. Things we least suspect she heard will be brought into her conversation days afterwards. "How is that for igh?" "Thomas is a nobby boy." "Didn't you shot so?" "Why not?" "When she gried up to Grandpa Allen's she slept in a little bed;" etc. These are a few of the things she says. Your imagination must be severely taxed to make what I write about Carrie seem cunning. -

We are at present begining to think about returning to house keeping and are all ready or the look out for something that will suit. A thing, I fear that, will be rather difficult to find. Will keep you posted

as to our success or failure in this regard. And now, a word about your coming home. Father wrote you, but none of us know what. He speaks rather knowingly and thinks you will be home in April. What I wish to say is that, he is all alone in the view he takes of the situation. We all desire to see you very much, but at the same time desire you to exercise your own pleasure about staying or returning. We shall probably go to housekeeping by or soon after the first of April. The work here will thus be lessened and I know it is mother's desire and the desire of all hands, with the exception of father, that you remain and see Minnesota in spring time, provided of course your inclinations, unbiased by things this way, lead you in that direction. I certainly hope you will stay until June if you would like to.

Business continues quiet. Every class of trade is complaining of the hard times. As to myself, am keeping at work and have thus far done very well.

Tomorrow I intend to visit Providence and call on my old business acquaintances.

A good many of them are sticking by me and I mean that more of them shall.

I wrote Emerson about the paint scrap that Tom Delano and I got into, also that we were pushing for damages.

Thursday Tom came into the office as juddy as a roe and as smiling as a basket of chips. Before he opened his head I knew what was coming.

My share amounted to \$32.- net. Tom I believe recovered \$25.-

Tom was in the market Saturday evening after some bacon, and in conversation with Joshua remarked that he had pushed the paint claim principally on my account. What a

magnanimous chap 'T.D.' is, —
Currier was married to Miss Sturges, — the
short lady with long thick curls that lives
with Mr. Currienschild on the corner of
Cure and Olver streets, — also a member
of our Church and Sabbath School, — last
Monday evening. They have gone to
house keeping on Cure St.

The 'Samaritans' are to have a 'Sale'
Wednesday evening March 8th.

The folks are all well. News scarce.
Have got to be out early in the morning
so will write nothing more this time.
Love to Emma and Mary as well
as to yourself. Write soon.

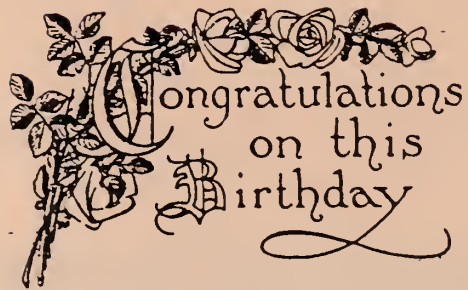
Your brother,

Solomon.

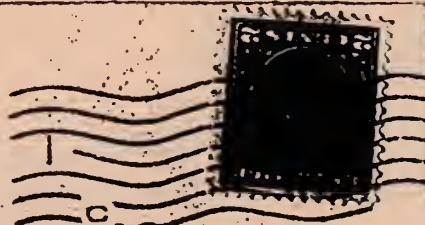
Aunt Annie's 70th Birthday



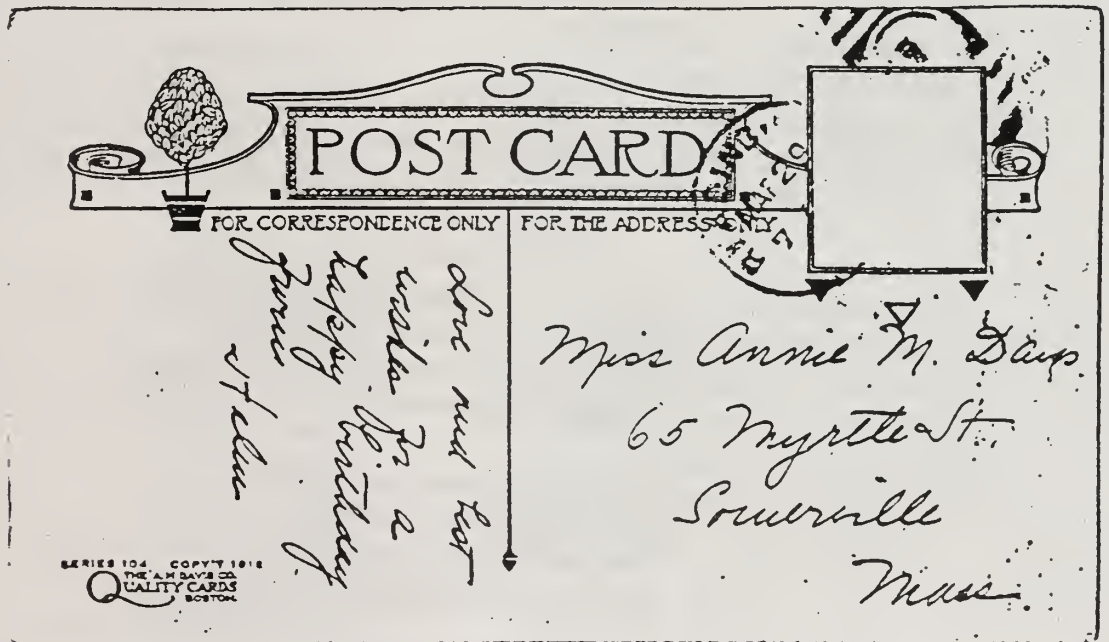
March 30, 1913



Mrs. Frank Wilbur Mattley



*Miss Annie M. Davis
65 Myrtle St.
East Somerville, Mass.*



Much love from
Joan
& best wishes for a
Happy Birthday

Dear Aunt Annie,

By the time you read this note, I'm afraid you may be harboring a slight misapprehension which I feel it my duty to correct.

You may be thinking that we are congratulating you on reaching your seventieth birthday. Incidentally we are, but chiefly we are congratulating ourselves on having you as an aunt!

Never were twelve youngsters luckier than we in the aunt that Providence granted us.

And now we are taking no bit of honor or love from Aunt Emily or Aunt Sarah when we pay our homage to you.

From the day we first saw light, you have loved us and believed in us and indulged us and been a blessing to us. Every one of our lives is sweeter and richer and happier because of you.

"Chief of our aunts, not only I,
But all thy dozen of nurslings cry,
What did the other children do?
And what were childhood, wanting you?"

I am sorry not to be with you tonight. But I shall come to see you some fine day this spring before many weeks are passed.

Lovingly,

Helen

Reading
March 29, 1913

Winona, Minn: Mar. 27, 1913
Thursday p.m.

Dear Sister Annie,

It is quite sad but alas! too true, that on Sunday next you have got to change the figure 6 in your age to a 7. Seventy seems lots older than sixty-eight, but I shall reach the same old milestone in two more years.

I do hope you have recovered from the pains and aches you have been a martyr to this winter and so have something to be thankful for on your 70th birthday.

Fortunately one gets prepared for the change of figures as one approaches it, so that when you really get to it it has become familiar and doesn't overwhelm you. And I think you will be the same dear good Annie and seem exactly the same to all of us who love you, even at seventy, or eighty, or ninety, if we all live so long. Father's good old age gives us reason to hope it may be as much as one hundred.

I am enclosing a check for a small amount in remembrance of the occasion. I had it made out to Emily for convenience but the money is for you.

It doesn't seem possible, does it, that you and I were once little girls together; or that having once been little girls that we are now old women! "Aged" women they call people past sixty, in the papers.

There was an "aged" man of sixty-three died the other day. I am always coming across such notices in the paper, but I comfort myself by thinking that they are also written by boy reporters.

I spent most of the forenoon down town doing errands necessitated by leaving home soon for a long stay, and this afternoon Hattie and I are going out to make some calls, so I cannot write a longer letter; but this goes with a great deal of love and all good wishes.

Mary

March 20, 1913

Dear Aunt Annie: -

This is a line from your lawyer nephew and carries with the best of wishes for a happy seventieth birthday. I wish that it were possible for me and my little wife to drop in at 65 Myrtle street and to give you birthday greetings in person, but that is impossible for us far Westerners.

The nieces and nephews who have been born and raised in Massachusetts have been blessed with aunts uncles and grandparents all around them. Those of us who have come West have found these good relatives scarcer and scarcer the farther West we get.

However if we Westerners haven't as many memories as the Eastern part of the Davis house still we do have many delightful recollections which extend way back and over a period of years and years.

I remember a good many things which happened during my first visit to Somerville. I have very distinct recollections of Carrie and Helen coming to call, of visiting Uncle Tom in his little room and the smell of his shaving soap.

I used to look for Uncle Joshua's return from the city after his day's work. I was pretty small and the picket fence which ran along the front of grandpa's and the adjoining places seemed very high.

I remember just how Uncle Joshua used to look as he first made his appearance coming up the hill and walking along the picket fence. Uncle Joshua used to do a good deal of the work in the yard and garden, all of which interested me greatly.

That Uncle Tom did the fooling and Uncle Joshua the work was the way I had the situation sized up.

The departure of my mother was always a great grief. When she did go you were generally much in demand. Annie and I were both quite fond of raw oatmeal and until a little of this in a cup and

with you to read or tell us a story we were quite happy and contented.

In those days I wore white stockings with gay stripes. I was also the proud owner of a very wee iron. Of course it was a rare privilege to iron or make myself believe that I was ironing this gay hosiery. You were always willing to give me the opportunity. Of course I had the idea that I was helping very greatly though doubtless I was a little nuisance.

My next Somerville visit was during my tenth year with Uncle Joshua and Aunt Cora. Tenney was a baby in long dresses and as I remember it Uncle Tom generally had him in his arms. That was the time when Ben Davis and I were chums and were almost constantly together and the time when I went to Truro and had a glorious never to be forgotten week.

In these my maturer years I get a great deal of pleasure out of life and the ecstasy of a ten year old boy on Cape Cod in the summer for the first time is not mine now.

Along with Ralph and Gladys and the others I well remember how you came to Dover and took the place of Mrs. Smith much to our joy.

I could write many pages of recollections wherein your presence exists, but a birthday letter must not be too long. With all your nieces and nephews uniting you will have a lot of letters to read.

How very fine it would be to be the owner of a magic carpet and to make your Western nephews a little visit. Ralph and I would love to take you into our homes to show you how well fixed we are.

Our great desire at present is for real spring to come so that we can dig in the ground and make our gardens. The season has been backward for us.

With much love and best wishes.

Your affectionate nephew

Louis

Capital View Md.
Chevy Chase R. F. D.
March 12, 1913

Dear Aunt Annie,

How the entire Russell family would love to drop in on you on your birthday, and bring you their good wishes in person!

We shall be thinking and speaking of you on that day, and we would like to tell you somehow that in this family as well as in every other family of your nephews and nieces "Aunt Annie" is the criterion for all that an aunt should be, and we wish that we could show her all the love that is in our hearts.

How Elizabeth and Mary would love to be spoiled as all the rest of us have been! You remember how Elizabeth "took" to it the times she was with you? She would be so happy if she could make you an occasional little visit.

You would have to answer questions on every subject under the heavens, and then she would treat you to her own speculations. She is already quite impressed with the duty of instructing Mary Frances - the two of them already have very happy times together.

Mary is just as dear and sweet as a little baby can be. I will send you a few pictures from which I hope you can get some idea of what Mary looks like. She is a very rosy radiant baby.

I am afraid that you have had a hard time this winter, Aunt Annie, with both neuralgia and rheumatism. I have been so sorry to hear about it, and I do hope that warm weather will come soon and with it both will leave you.

I meant to write before this, but can you realize how busy I am? It seems as if there never were any spare moments in the day or the evening either.

I think of all you dear people at 65 Myrtle St. very very often and long to see you.

A very happy birthday to you and may there be many happy returns.

Love to you all, but special love to you from each member of this family, big & little.

Alice

Kiesling, Wash.
March 21, 1913

Dear Aunt Annie:

Congratulations!

I not only wish you many happy returns of the day, but would even make it the scriptural "seventy times seven."

Carrie suggested that you would appreciate a birthday call from Conrad and Ruth on March 30th. That could not quite be arranged but I wish it could have happened.

As soon as Conrad had got acquainted - if he had made the call - he probably would have demanded a story about "Kitty & Tom" or the "Li'l Half Chick" or "Goldilocks" or some other character dear to his heart.

You would often hear him say "May I; May I?" Which is his new way of asking permission to do something. Sometimes you would hear him answer the question himself, thus, "You may" with rising inflection, followed by business of doing it.

Sometimes when you offered to do something for him (that he wanted to do) he'd say in provoked peremptory tones "Let Conwad do that all alonee"; or again if you were urging him to certain action (that he didn't like) he'd say, "Conwad too li'l to do that." Incidentally Conrad would make things hum if he spent many hours with you.

Sister Ruth for her part would look approvingly at her brother's activity for she likes to see things going on. She

would doubtless in time succeed in pulling off her stockings and would hold up her little plump feet for your inspection. She would smile a great deal and perhaps cry a little when she was hungry.

They would have a good time there. Don't I know it? I should say I do. There are more things in grandpa's attic than are dreamt of in most small boys' philosophy.

Well, it would be an interesting visit and both Else and I wish we could make it and pay our respects on your birthday. Since that is impossible we send herewith our very best wishes for your happiness and health.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Dyar

400 W. 118th St. Apt. 2
New York City
March 24, 1913

Dear Aunt Annie,

A rumor reached me that you were going to have a birthday and that your seventieth. Just think of it, you have lived seventy years and the vast majority of those years have been spent taking care of and amusing a whole raft of nieces and nephews, to say nothing of making millions of cookies (I am sure it must be millions by now) and hundreds of cakes and goodies for their ravenous mouths. Never have nieces and nephews been blessed with such an aunt as our Aunt Annie.

Whenever I visited at Grandpa's, Aunt Annie was the one to go to in all emergencies. If someone didn't think I ought to have a funnel to play with in the sand, I rushed hopefully to you and always got what I wanted. Or if I wanted a cookie, I wasted no time on others. I went directly to you, who held power over the source of supplies.

So from one niece there comes a vast amount of gratitude to you and wishes for the happiest kind of a birthday and many of them. I certainly wish I could be present at the celebration. Altho I can't be there in reality I shall be thinking of you on the eventful day.

I wonder if you have heard in detail about my plans for next year. If you have, omit this next, and if you haven't here is my plan.

Helen Curtis (you undoubtedly have either seen her or heard Annie speak of her,) and I are planning to open a little novelty shop in the fall, in fact the first of August. In said shop we are going to have all kinds of art needle work, dinner cards, tally cards, favors for parties, cards for all occasions, beaten silver novelties and innumerable

attractive novelties that are gotten out at Christmas time.

There is no such shop in Winona and we feel that there is a very good opening there for such a place. New York was just the place to come for ideas, for we see more ideas here in one day than we see in a year at home.

Oh yes, we are going to have unusual dolls and a very few unusual toys. People here in New York have certainly proved their worth by being exceedingly kind to us. We meet nothing but friendliness on all sides. A great many college girls (especially Smith girls) have gone into this kind of work. Just to-day we went to see an Elizabeth Pusey (a Smith girl) who gets out "Pack-Boxes" for children & adults, besides a lot of unusual novelties. Four years ago she started out with seventy dollars & now she has an enormous business.

School teaching is altogether too tame, uninteresting and commonplace. A business life appeals to me far more.

Ida lives just four blocks away from me and it surely is great fun having her so near. We sew and talk and have lots of good times to-gether. Her little flat is a charming homelike little place and she and William are undoubtedly as happy as two people can possibly be.

There is certainly no city like New York. I fell in love with it the instant I arrived. Everybody here is doing something interesting. They are all up-to-date and alive. But it is time to get something to eat, so I mustn't write any more. I hope to see you all before I go back home.

Lots of love and best wishes again for an A No. 1 birthday.

Gladys

Dear Aunt Annie,

Although I cannot be with you on this occasion, yet I am with you in thought for I cannot but remember the times when I have been with you.

Do you remember how, many years ago, you used to read to Tenney and Robert and me? The Jungle Books were our favorites at that time, and I remember how after you had ended one story we would beg for another, and you would keep on reading to us for whole afternoons at a time.

Then another time when I was in Somerville I remember going with you and the other aunts to the beaches and to Bunker Hill, and all about. This time again, I remember how you did all manner of special things that your nephews and neice liked, such things as making doughnuts for them and saying a good word in their favor on occasions when they had been perhaps a little naughty.

I wish ever so much, Aunt Annie, that I might come back and see you again. It would be nice to have you out here, just supposing that that could be, but yet I would rather be in Somerville to see you, for you seem so very much a part of the house there.

In fact I cannot see Grandpa's house in my mind without seeing you in it doing all the useful and helpful things that you have always done.

So you see that in this way, if not actually, I see you very often.

I hope that you will have a very, very, happy birthday.

Your neice

Eleanor

133 East Wabasha
Winona, Minn.
March 27, 1913

Dear Aunt Annie,

Let me congratulate you on
this your 70th birthday. I will be
sixteen on April 21st.

I am getting along nicely with
my chickens and expect a hatch from
the incubator saturday.

I am enclosing a photograph
which I took of you about six years
ago you was here.

It is a very much
underexposed negative and I have
had a hard time to get any kind of a
print at all.

Yours respectfully,

Kenneth Davis

Who always took the children's part
Out of the kindness of her heart?

Aunt Annie!

Who's the best friend we ever had?
Who thought we were good when we were bad?

Aunt Annie!

Who always kept us looking neat?
And gave us all that we could eat?

Aunt Annie!

Who read to us from many a book?
Who let us think we were helping her cook?
Who never counted the "tastes" we took?

Aunt Annie!

Who never cared how much noise we made?
Who never cared how long we stayed?
Who didn't care - much - when we disobeyed?

Aunt Annie!

Who never said "No" when we wanted a "Yes"?
Who always gave more and never gave less?
Whom do all us heartily bless?

Aunt Annie!

Who never said we were in the way?
Who always told us that we could stay?
To dinner or supper or all the day?

Aunt Annie!

If parents wished to go away
Where would the children spend the day?
With one who ne'er would say them nay.

Aunt Annie!

Who was it when I yelled and cried
And ma and daddy both defied
Hot ginger bread or cake applied?

Aunt Annie!

Have some more if you can!
There is scarcely a ban
On the cookies and candy
And say - it was jim dandy.
I'll guess who made it,
I'll bet 'twas

Aunt Annie!

E. Somerville Apr. 2, 1913

My dear nephews & nieces,

You have quite overwhelmed your old Aunt on her Seventieth birthday by your kindnesses. You have given me a complete surprise and most unexpected.

About seven o'clock Sat. evening when I had settled down for a quiet evening the door-bell rang. Emily went to the door and in walked Nibs. I was expecting to see him followed by one of the boys, when they told me I was wanted in the parlor.

I went in to be greeted with congratulations by Solomon and Josie and Carrie, Thomas and Mattie and the boys. Well, thinks I they have taken all this trouble in honor of my birthday. Well it is kind.

When greetings were over Tenney brought out a big box which he proceeded to open and disclosed your beautiful gift, Dickens complete works in twenty volumes beautifully bound in red leather and gold and printed on fine India linen paper which he said were from my nieces and nephews.

They are beauties and a delight to handle them. Am very proud to possess them & thank you one & all for them.

With these having disposed they all seated themselves around in the sitting room and began repeating their fine verses which Aunt Sarah will copy and I will enclose with this letter.

And then came the reading of the letters. There was one from every one of you and they were all very good. And the reading of them was listened to with interest and much amusement. (Aunt Sarah was the reader for them, most beautifully).

Then came a call to the dining room. On the table was a beautiful bouquet from the Reading greenhouse of pinks and nasturtiums. And there were birthday cakes and other cakes and ice cream of which all partook.

Soon after Solomon and they said they must get their train for Reading and started for home. And soon all went home and the beautiful party was over.

Well I want to tell you what sort of nieces and nephews you were. Did ever a fond aunt have the pleasure of indulging and making you happy. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I loved to give you cookies and anything else I could and I loved to read you stories and do anything else to make you happy.

And my arms ache now Ralph to
get hold of little Conrad and Ruth and
Elizabeth and Mary. How I would love
to give them cookies and hold them in
my lap and tell them stories.

Often regretted before.....
(illegible).....

And Annie, Mrs. Smith was a
very nice person to follow. Most anyone
would have looked good to you children
then.

And Eleanor, the Jungle Books
are wonderful stories and I was as much
interested in them as you.

And Kenneth, I was very glad
you have the making of a successful.....
getting your chickens and get to see it.

And Gladys, I was very glad to
hear of your work and what you propose
to do. I hope your venture will be very
successful.

You are men and women now &
which once charmed you endures no
longer. My day is passed but I assure
that in my heart is the old same longing
to indulge and make you happy.

I am your loving

Aunt Annie



March 30, 1843

at 11 O'clock P. M.

**Anna Maria Davis
was born**

**May her days be long, virtuous and happy;
may her parents have grace and wisdom granted them,
to train her for a blessed immortality.**

**May she early embrace the Saviour and ever
enjoy his approving smiles, and finally with her parents
be permitted to participate in celestial joys.**

September 27, 1843

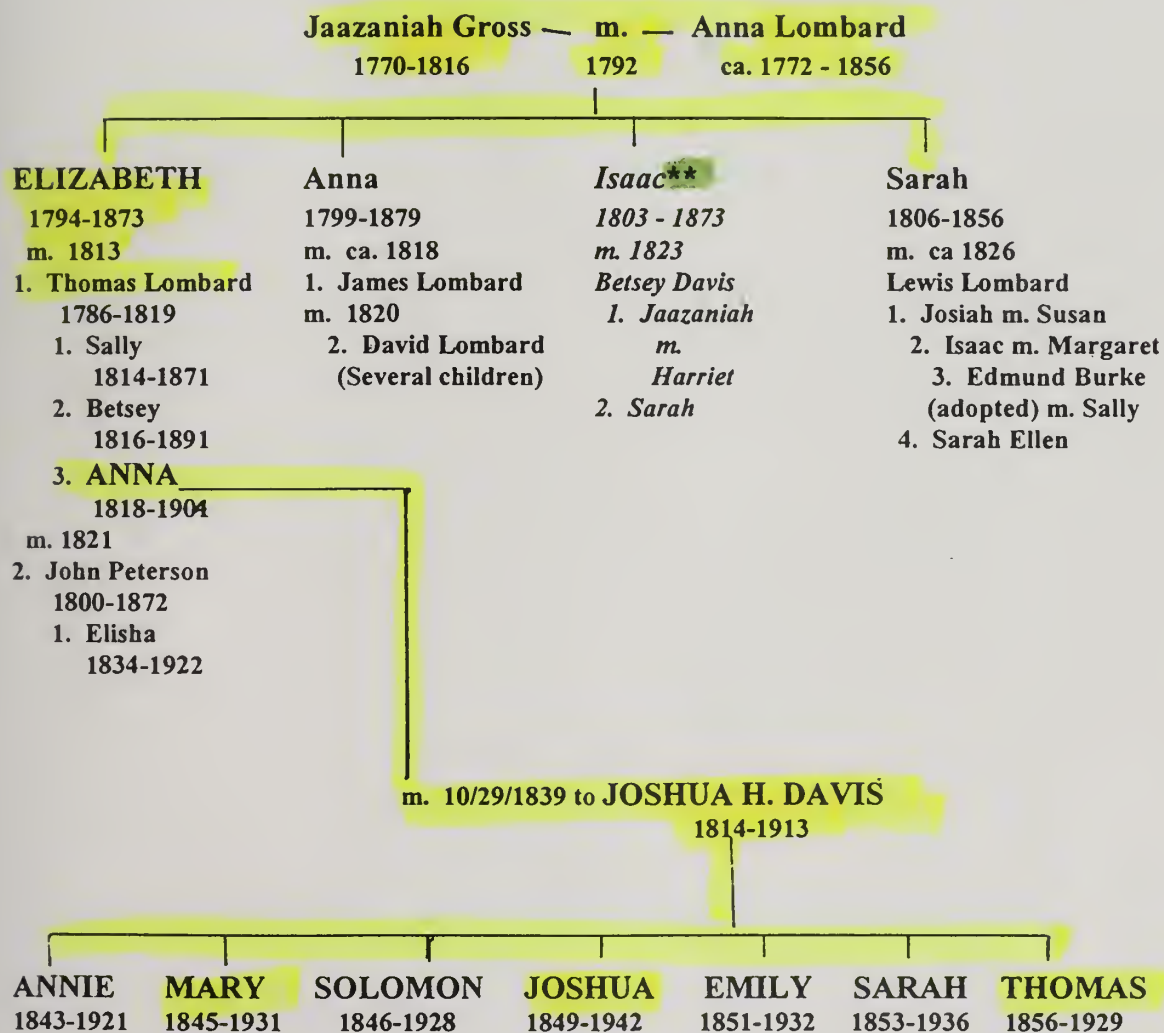
**Anna M. Davis
was Baptised by
Rev. Caleb Elliot**

February 28th, 1862

**Anna graduated at the High School
in Somerville,
Hers being the first class that graduated
regularly at that School.**

From a notebook of Joshua H. Davis

GROSS/LOMBARD/PETERSON



** Also see relationship on Davis side of the family

